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花とゆめCOMICS

てるてる×少年

高尾 滋 7

花とゆめ COMICS

てるてる×少年〔7〕

高尾 滋

白泉社

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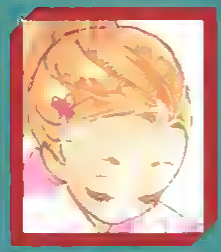


花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

「私は御城家の本当の嬉子ではない」

紫信の告白に衝撃を受ける才蔵だったが、それでも尚、加速していく二人の想い。しかし年始の里帰りで正吾の実家を訪れた二人は、そこで意外な人物の写真を見つけ——!? 急展開に目が離せない平成忍者ロマンス第7巻登場!!

■花とゆめ掲載■

白泉社

●高尾 滋の本
――花とゆめコミックス――
人形芝居①～②
スロップマンションにお帰り
ティア マイン 全4巻
てるてる×少年 ①～⑦

作品かいせつ

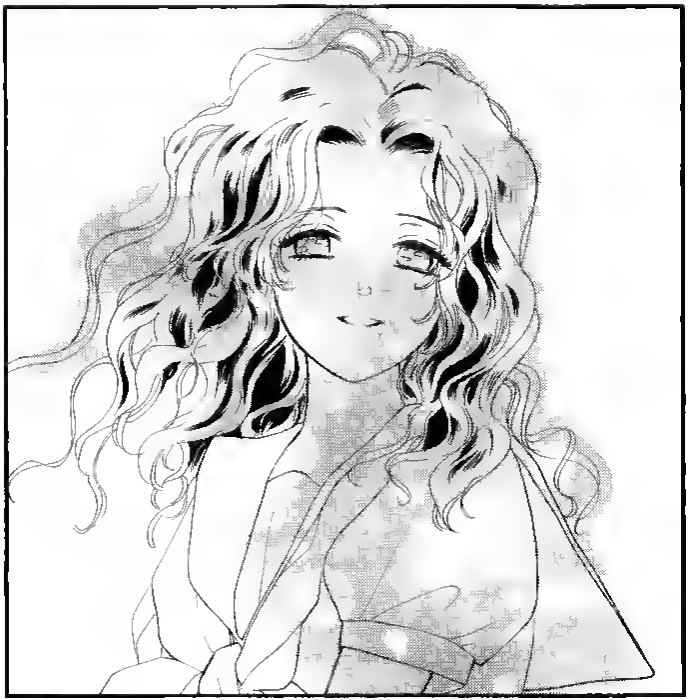
『私は御城家の血を引いていない…』紫信の告白に衝撃を受ける才蔵だったが、それでも尚、加速していく二人の想い。しかし年始に里帰りした二人は、正吾の実家で意外な人物の写真を見つける。一方、左介と千代は立ち聞きした正吾と松子の会話から、更なる秘密を知ってしまい!?

Hana to Yume COMICS

Teru Teru X Shounen

Volume 7

Takao Shigeru



Chapter 37

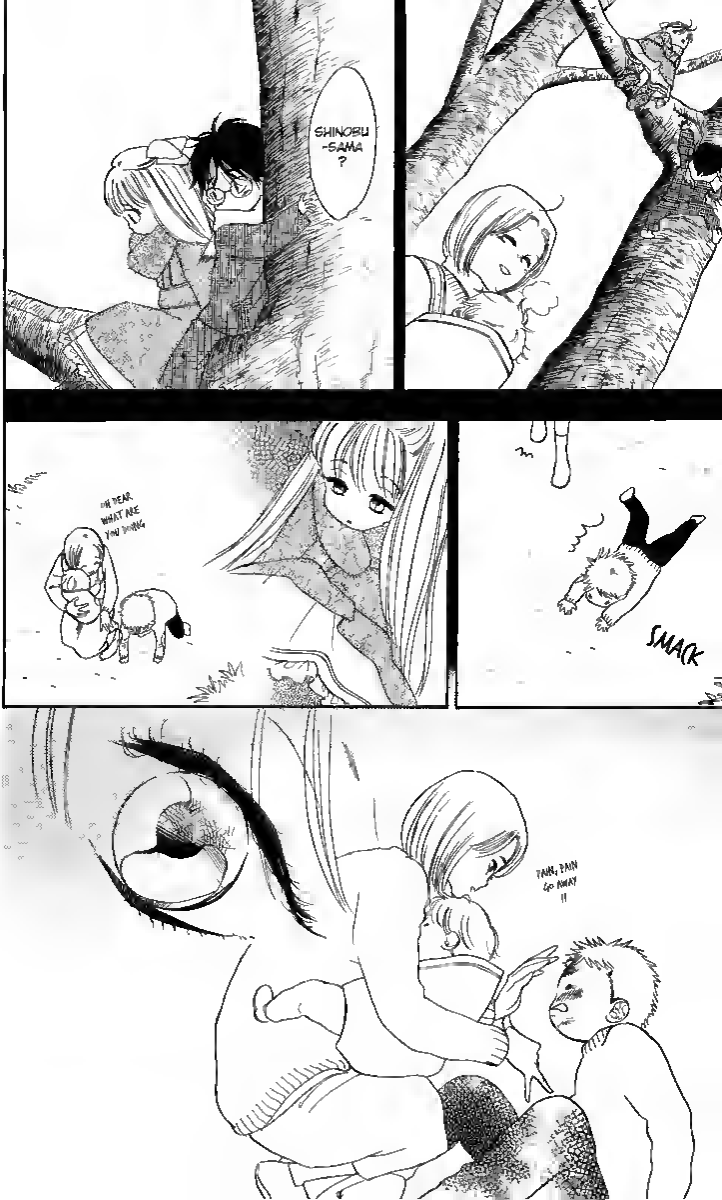
EVERY SINGLE DAY, SOMEONE WOULD REPEAT THE SAME THING TO ME
THOSE WORDS CHANTED IN THE VILLAGE EVERYDAY WERE LIKE A CURSE TO ME
"YOU MUST STUDY HARD IN ORDER TO BECOME AN EXCELLENT MASTER IN THE FUTURE"
SHINOBU -SAMA, YOU ARE DESTINED TO BECOME THE LEADER OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY ONE DAY"
"I AM NOT THE REAL DAUGHTER OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY"
WHOOSH

SLIDE
SHH
!?
SMACK
AHH
CHIYO -NEE
EXCUSE ME !
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM THE LORD
WE WILL SEND FOR CARS AND START RETURNING THE STUDENTS IN THE LOBBY HOME ONE BY ONE
THE SCHOOL FACULTY AND CIRCUS TROUPE REPRESENTATIVES ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION AND FORMALLY APOLOGISE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE STUDENTS INVOLVED
BUT THE TIME
IM SURE IT WILL TAKE TIME
HE ASKED FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO GO HOME FIRST, OK ?
ALRIGHT

FLAP
FLAP
SAIZOU
SASUKE HAS SOMETHING TO TALK TO CHIYO-NEE ABOUT AND NEEDS TO MAKE A DETOUR SO HE WILL BE HOME LATE TODAY
SHINOBU -SAMA
I SEE
ROPP ROSS
YES ?
I'LL GET STARTED ON DINNER IMMEDIATELY
NO
COULD YOU PLEASE PREPARE SOME TEA INSTEAD
WE'LL CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF

THIS IS STRANGE
CLINK
EVEN THOUGH IM SO SCARED THAT MY BODY IS SHAKING ...
I DONT FEEL LIKE STOPPING MYSELF FROM TELLING THE TRUTH AT ALL
"I FORGIVE YOU"
I WONT REGRET TRUSTING SAIZOU IN THAT MOMENT
SAIZOU, COME SIT HERE
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ON THE SAME EYE LEVEL

WELL THAT IS BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR MASTER
YOU NATURALLY SIT ON A LEVEL LOWER THAN MINE
IT WAS THE SAME WITH ALL THE ADULTS BACK IN THE VILLAGE TOO
HERE
WHAT IS IT ?
NO MATTER HOW YOUNG I WAS THEN
THEY WOULD NEVER BEND THEIR KNEES FOR ME
NEVER HELD ME UP IN THEIR ARMS OR LOOKED ME IN THE EYE BEFORE
MOTHER AND FATHER ALWAYS SAT AT THE TOP
AND WHENEVER I WOULD GO NEAR THEM
NO
FOR NOW
THAT IS IF I AM YOUR MASTER
THERE IS NO WAY I WOULDNT HAVE NOTICED HOW ABNORMAL OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS
I WILL START FROM HERE !...


SHINOBU -SAMA ?
OH DEAR. WHAT ARE YOU DOING
SMACK
PAIN, PAIN GO AWAY !!

HOW I WISH I COULD HAVE THAT !...
FATHER !
I WANTED IT FOR MYSELF TOO
READY, SET
SNACK
SHOCK
LISTEN TO ME !!
STAND UP

SHINOBU -SAMA ARE YOU ALRIGHT ?
THIS OLD MAN WILL HAPPILY LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY
NO MATTER HOW BUSY THE MASTER MAY BE
TO TREAT THE POOR LITTLE GIRL LIKE A DOG
I CANT HELP BUT PITY SHINOBU -SAMA

OF COURSE I WAS UNHAPPY,
BUT I NEVER SPOKE UP ABOUT IT
MOST PROBABLY BECAUSE I COULD JUST FEEL IT IN MY SKIN THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO DO SO
TO START WITH THE CONCLUSION

I AM NOT MY FATHER'S BIOLOGICAL DAUGHTER ..
Y-
YOU DONT MEANT A THEORY ?
NO
SHO-
SHOUKO -SAMA ?
SHE IS MY REAL MOTHER, THAT TOO IS NOT A THEORY
IT'S A FACT
MY REAL FATHER
EVEN I DONT KNOW WHO HE IS ...

HELLOO
YOSHITO
I AM ON STANDBY IN A SEPARATE ROOM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW ?
I SEE CAN YOU ASK HER TO RETURN MY CALL LATER ON
IS SHOUKO -SAN WITH YOU RIGHT NOW ?
SHE IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING A DINNER FUNCTION ... SHOUGO-SAMA ??
I WILL DELIVER YOUR MESSAGE
ALRIGHT THEN KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK ! WHERE ARE YOU AT THE MOMENT ?
I AM IN NAGANO
WHOMP
.....

最近のハマリもの。①

「やばい猫が見る」
DVD vol～19

1989年10月から
1990年3月まで
TV放送されていた
深夜ドラマ。

千里のとあるコンションの一室にて繰り広げられるミステリー ホームコメディ。

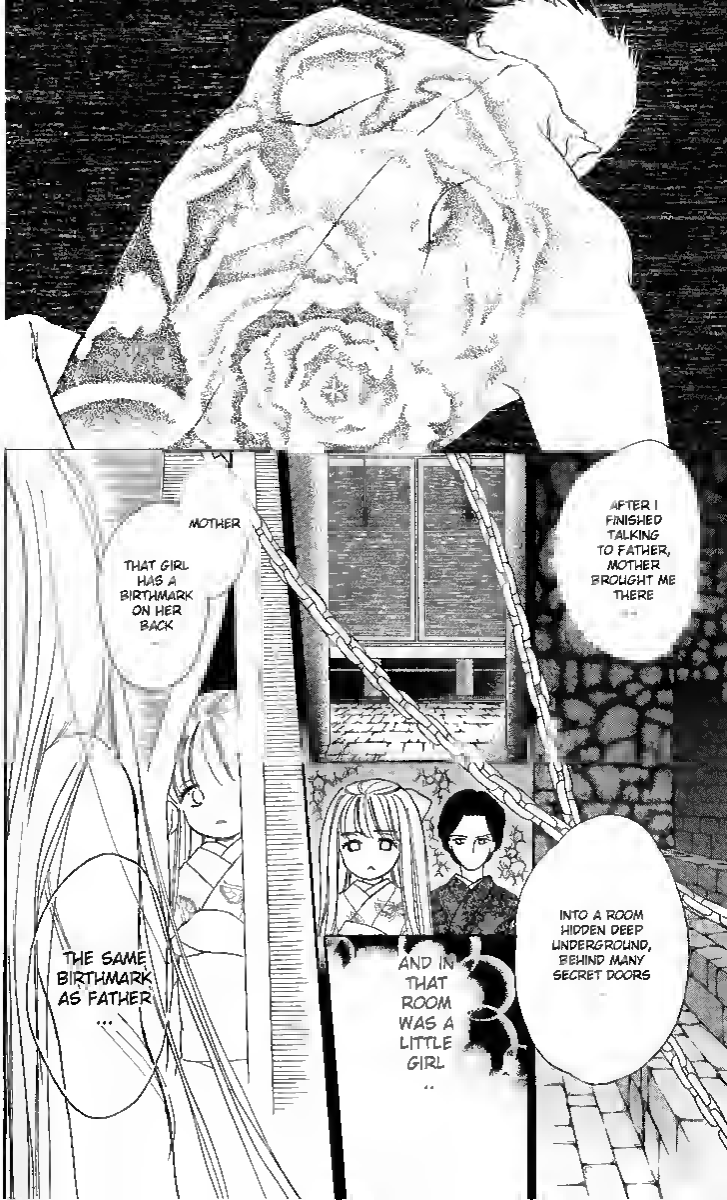
おもしろい
おもしろい
おもしろいらしい

EVERY-ONE ELSE PLEASE LEAVE US
DO AS HE SAYS
HO-
FATHER SPOKE TO ME SO CASUALLY AS IF WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE TOMORROW'S WEATHER
...
HOW IS YOUR CONDITION FATHER—?
I CAN NO LONGER RECOVER
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU BEFORE I DIE

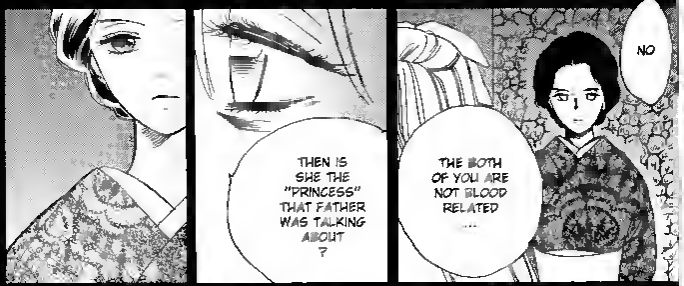
HE STRETCHED HIS ARMS TOWARDS ME
AND COVERED MY MOUTH

LEADERS OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY ARE BORN WITH A BIRTHMARK IN THE SHAPE OF A LARGE FLOWER ON THEIR BACKS
I INTENDED TO WAIT UNTIL YOU WERE OLDER, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I HAVE NO CHOICE
SHINO DOES NOT HAVE IT
LISTEN ...
WH-

I AM GRIEVED TO THINK OF WHAT LIES AHEAD IN YOUR FUTURE
BUT I HAD TO TELL YOU THIS
YOU MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND SINCE YOU ARE STILL YOUNG
BEAR THIS IN MIND
DO NOT EVER LET ANYONE UNCOVER THIS TRUTH
YOU LIVE ONLY TO PROTECT THE EXISTENCE OF THIS PITIFUL PRINCESS
SAME AS I ...
FOR IF THIS EVER CAME TO LIGHT, YOU WILL LOSE ANY REASON YOU HAVE TO LIVE


AFTER I FINISHED TALKING TO FATHER, MOTHER BROUGHT ME THERE
...
MOTHER
THAT GIRL HAS A BIRTHMARK ON HER BACK
...
INTO A ROOM HIDDEN DEEP UNDERGROUND, BEHIND MANY SECRET DOORS
AND IN THAT ROOM WAS A LITTLE GIRL
..
THE SAME BIRTHMARK AS FATHER
...

"LEADERS OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY ARE BORN WITH IT"



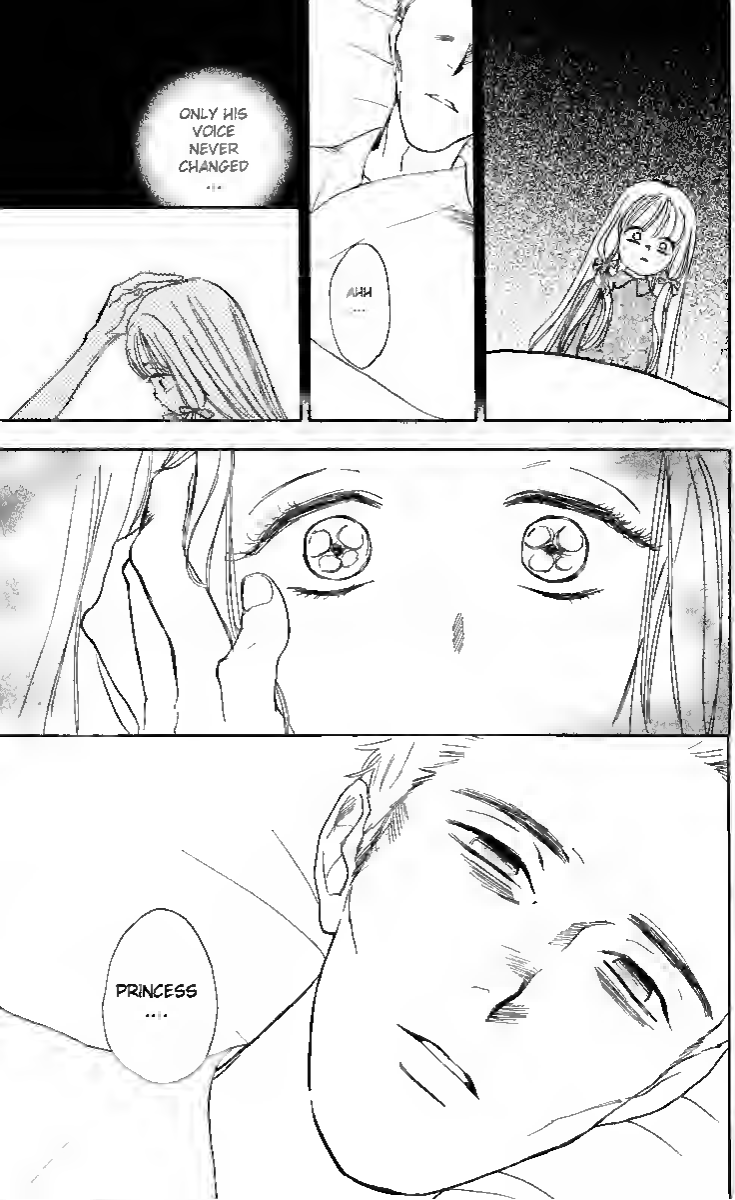
YES

MY FATHER WHO BORE THE [illegible] OF [illegible]

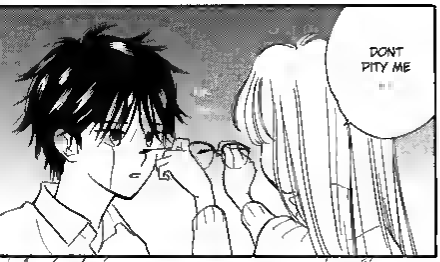
AND A [illegible] IS NOT RELATED TO ME BY BLOOD ...

EVEN THOUGH I WAS A CHILD, I SOMEWHAT REALISED ...

WHO IS MY FATHER ?
A FEW MONTHS LATER
ON A SPRING'S NIGHT WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD
I WAS CALLED TO MY FATHER'S BEDSIDE
THIS WAY, SHINOBU
GIVE HIM YOUR FINAL GREETINGS
THE WORD 'FATHER' GOT STUCK IN MY THROAT AND I COULDN'T MAKE A SOUND
I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO VISIT HIM EVEN THOUGH I WAS TOLD HIS ILLNESS WAS NOT INFECTIOUS
AND IN THOSE FEW MONTHS I HAVEN'T SEEN FATHER HIS APPEARANCE BECAME HAGGARD LIKE AN OLD MAN
THE MASTER IS IN A STATE WHERE HE CAN BARELY SEE ANYTHING ANYMORE
PLEASE GO CLOSER TO HIS FACE WHEN YOU SPEAK TO HIM

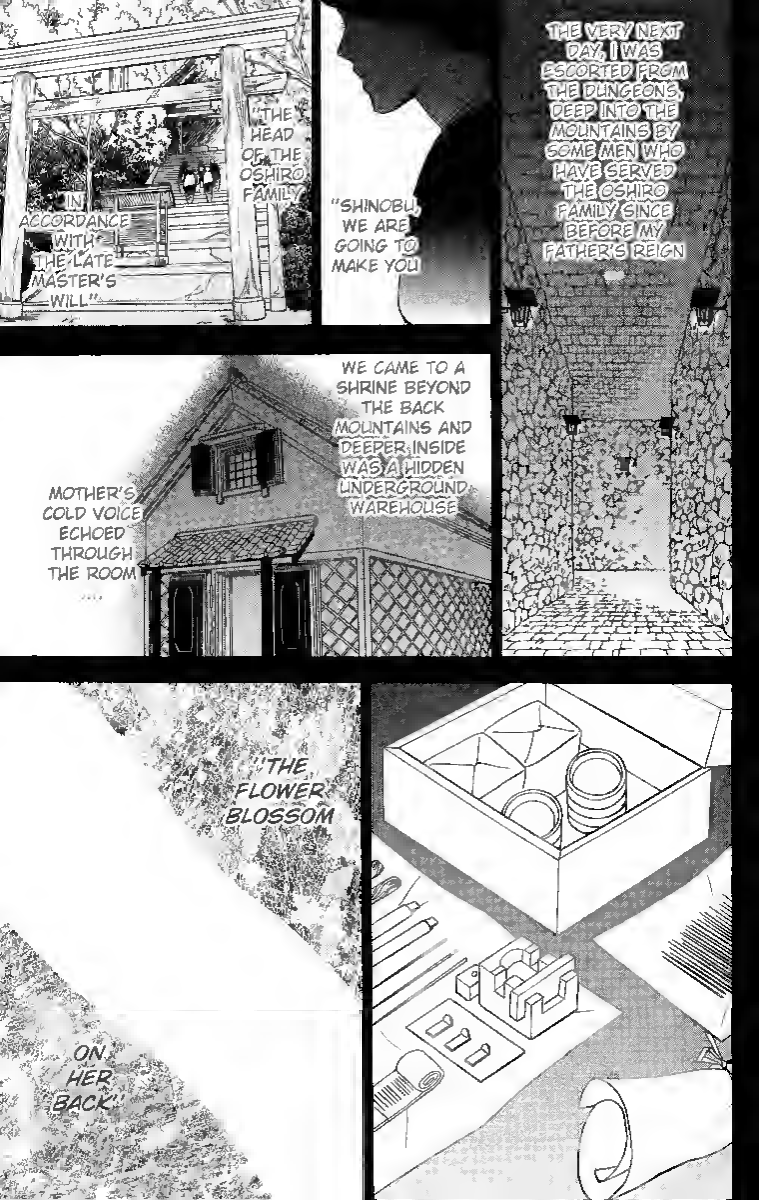

ONLY HIS VOICE NEVER CHANGED
...
AHH
...
PRINCESS
...

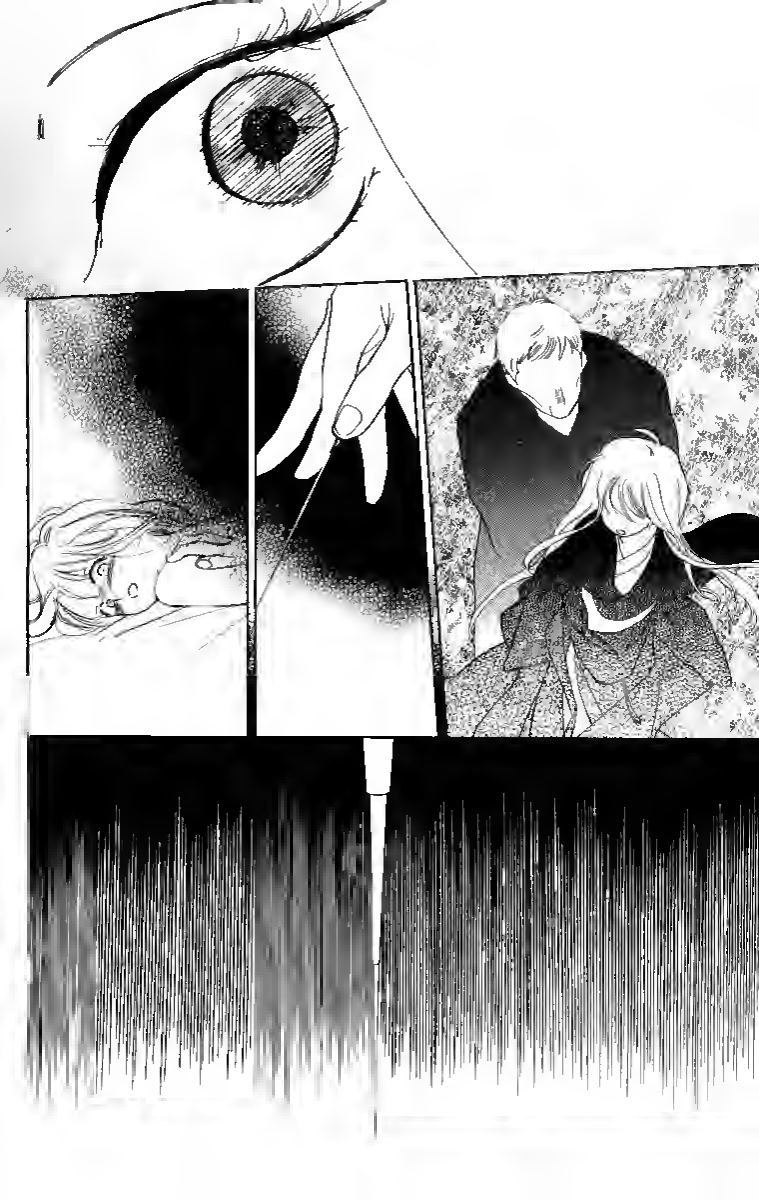
UNTIL THE VERY END ...
I WISH I HAD THAT TOO
WHAT ABOUT 'SHINOBU' ?
FATHER
I REALLY WANT THAT TOO
YOU DON'T WANT 'SHINOBU' ?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE IT TO 'SHINOBU' ..?


DONT PITY ME

YOU HAVE SUCH BEAUTIFUL EYES
SAIZOU
TELL ME WHAT DO YOU SEE ?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME WHEN YOU LOOK INTO MY EYES ?

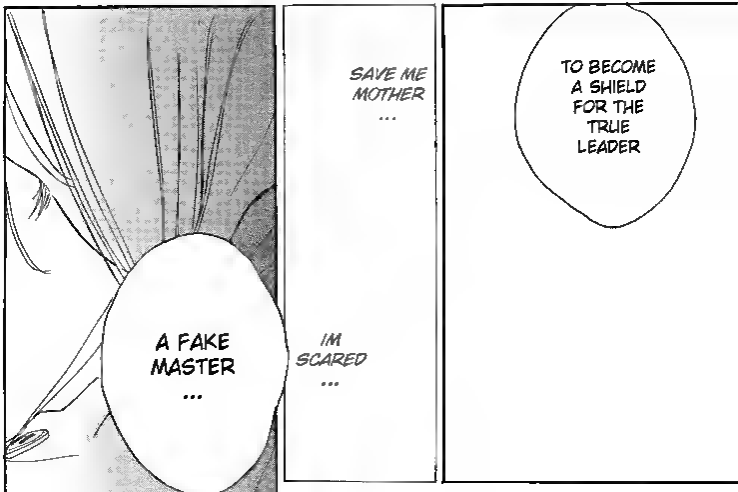
SHINOBU
I NEVER
SHOULD HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO YOU !!
AFTER THE FUNERAL ...
MOTHER BID THE PASTOR GOODBYE AND SAID THIS TO ME IN THE RAIN ..
EVEN MOTHER DOES NOT WANT SHINOBU AS WELL !!!
WHAT CAN I DO ...
FOR SOMEONE TO 'WANT' ME ?


"THE HEAD OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY"
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATE MASTER'S WILL"
"SHINOBU, WE ARE GOING TO MAKE YOU
THE VERY NEXT DAY, I WAS ESCORTED FROM THE DUNGEONS, DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAINS BY SOME MEN WHO HAVE SERVED THE OSHIRO FAMILY SINCE BEFORE MY FATHER'S REIGN
WE CAME TO A SHRINE BEYOND THE BACK MOUNTAINS AND DEEPER INSIDE WAS A HIDDEN UNDERGROUND WAREHOUSE
MOTHER'S COLD VOICE ECHOED THROUGH THE ROOM
...
"THE FLOWER BLOSSOM
ON HER BACK"



AAAAARGHHH!

A TATTOO ...
EACH STROKE OF THE NEEDLE REMINDED ME OF THE WEIGHT OF THIS IDENTITY I WOULD CARRY
I AM NOTHING BUT A SHADOW
I HAVE FOUND MY OWN PLACE IN THIS WORLD
AND BY DECEIVING EVERYONE AROUND ME

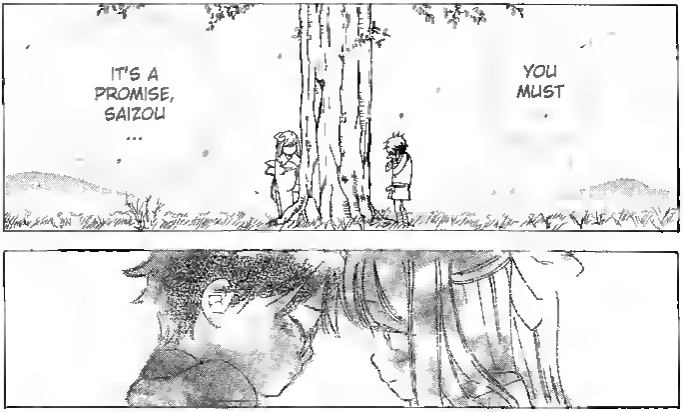

TO BECOME A SHIELD FOR THE TRUE LEADER
SAVE ME MOTHER ...
IM SCARED ...
A FAKE MASTER ...

I EVEN STOLE YOUR HEART
I ...
EVEN WORSE,
AFTER I EARNED YOUR LOYALTY AS A SERVANT TO HIS MASTER ...
I HAVE SWORN LOYALTY TO THE OSHIRO FAMILY JUST LIKE YOU AND WITH THAT SPIRIT I HAVE CONTINUED TO DECEIVE THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE
DO NOT FEEL SAD FOR ME ...
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS LOVE ...
CONFESSED MY TRUE FEELINGS TO YOU ...
IT IS UNFORGIVABLE!
THAT WAS REALLY CRUEL OF ME ...

SHINOBU -SAMA
WHY ARE YOU KEEPING YOUR EYES CLOSED ?
CAN YOU LOOK INTO MY EYES AND TELL ME ONCE MORE ?
OPEN YOUR EYES
AND TELL ME,
SPEAK TO ME FROM YOUR HEART, SHINOBU -SAMA
BUT IF I SAY THAT ...
SAY IT ...
LET ME HEAR IT
ONE MORE TIME
COME ON

SAY IT...

EVEN THEN...
I STILL REALLY LIKE YOU, SAIZOU...

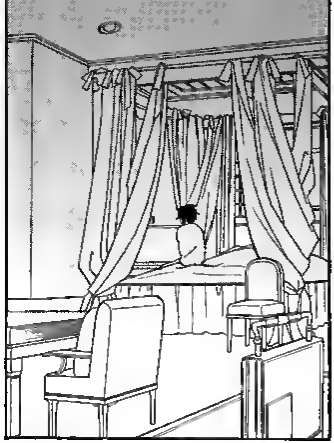


YOU MUST COME TO HELP ME ONE DAY ....

Chapter 38

I MADE A PROMISE THAT BURNS BRIGHTLY IN MY HEART
SNIFF
YAWN
SHI-
SHINOBU -SAMA ?
UH SORRY
I COULDNT HOLD IT IN
WHY AT A TIME LIKE THIS

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I LOOSENED ALL THE TENSION BUILT UP IN ME
I CAN'T SEE PROPERLY
BY THE WAY YOU SORT OF HAVE DARK CIRCLES
ARE YOU LACKING SLEEP ?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO REST NOW ?
NO
HEY SAIZOU
YES ?
NO
JUST A LITTLE
LAST NIGHT
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO FORGIVE ME ?
YES I FORGIVE YOU



I GUESS IT STILL ISNT ENOUGH
SHE STILL DOESNT BELIEVE ME ...

I FORGIVE YOU ...

WHY DO YOU ACT SO TOUGH

TO FORGIVE ?
OR NOT TO FORGIVE,
I NEVER HAD THE RIGHT TO MAKE THAT DECISION IN THE FIRST PLACE ...
BECAUSE I AM HAPPY TO JUST HAVE YOU BY MY SIDE ...

EHHH ?
YOU'RE RETURNING TO THE MISHIMA HOUSE !?
GRADUATION CEREMONY
23RD DECEMBER (TUESDAY)

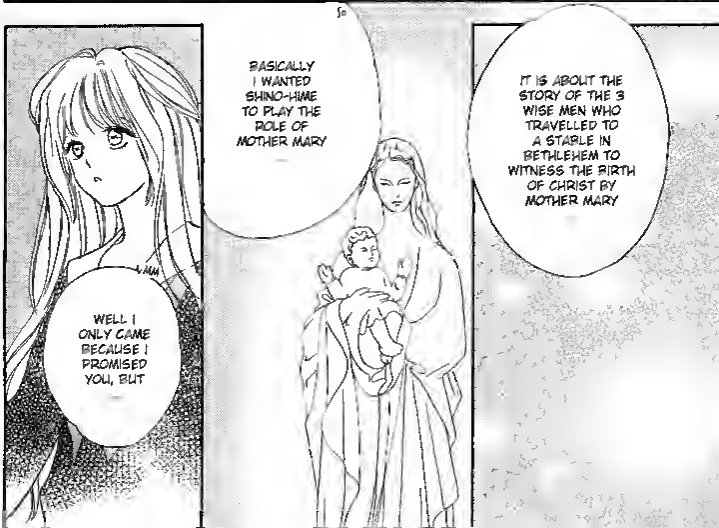
I'LL LEAVE TOMORROW NIGHT,
SPEAKING OF WHICH, DONT YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO THE OSHIRO HOUSE EVERY YEAR TOO ?
THAT'S RIGHT BUT,
I ALWAYS VISIT ONLY AFTER THE NEW YEAR
OH ! DOES THAT GO FOR SAIZOU AS WELL !? IS HE GOING TO RETURN TO THE MISHIMA HOUSE WITH YOU ?
YUP !
ALSO, THERE ARE NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO BE MADE IN THE VILLAGE

OH NO !
WHEN SHINOBU -SAMA RETURNS TO THE VILLAGE
I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU AT THAT TIME
EH ?
HM ... ? BUT OF COURSE, HE IS YOUR BODYGUARD ISNT HE ?
AHHH UHM YEA YOU'RE RIGHT
I GUESS THAT WAS A GIVEN HUH
BONK
WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE GOING AHEAD FIRST
OH
OKAY
I'LL LET YOSHI-NII KNOW THAT YOU'RE COMING AFTER NEW YEAR
.....

SASUKE IS THERE ...
HM ?
.....
IS SOME -THING THE MATTER ?
AHH YOU'RE HERE ! WE FINALLY FOUND YOU SHINO-HIME !
HM ?
NOPE NOTHING ...
NARUMI
WHAT IS IT ?
?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS AFTER SCHOOL TODAY ?
NO NOT REALLY ...
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A FAVOUR I WANT TO ASK OF YOU ...

MORIYA CATHOLIC KINDERGARDEN
A KINDER -GARDEN ?
MY UNCLE IS THE PRINCIPAL HERE.
THE BOTH OF US WENT TO THIS SCHOOL WHEN WE WERE KIDS TOO

I WAS HOPING SHINO-HIME COULD TAKE PART IN A CHRISTMAS PLAY THAT WE ORGANISED
YUP !
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN !! ?
A PLAY ?
YUP THAT'S RIGHT
YOU MEAN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ?
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT IS A CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST
WHAT IS THE CHRISTMAS PLAY ABOUT ANYWAY ?

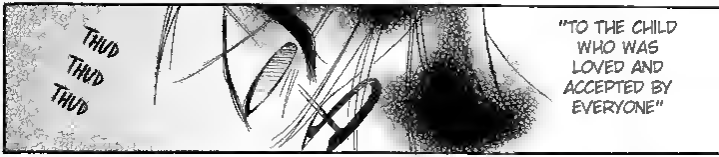

WELL I ONLY CAME BECAUSE I PROMISED YOU, BUT
BASICALLY I WANTED SHINO-HIME TO PLAY THE ROLE OF MOTHER MARY
IT IS ABOUT THE STORY OF THE 3 WISE MEN WHO TRAVELLED TO A STABLE IN BETHLEHEM TO WITNESS THE BIRTH OF CHRIST BY MOTHER MARY

ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT ?
IM NOT FAMILIAR WITH ANY OF THE LINES AT ALL SINCE I JUST KNEW ABOUT IT TODAY
OH DONT WORRY ANOUT THAT ! IM SURE YOU'LL DO FINE
HARUMI -CHAN !
SENSEI !
OH MY
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I LAST SAW YOU
LONG TIME NO SEE, SENSEI
SENSEI LET ME INTRODUCE TO YOU,
SHE HAS AGREED TO TAKE ON THE ROLE OF MOTHER MARY IN THE PLAY
MY GOOD FRIEND OSHIRO-SAN
OH DEAR !
HELLO
NICE TO MEET YOU
IM SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU WITH THIS
BUT NOW, SHALL I HELP YOU GET AREADY FOR THE PLAY ?
Note Sensei means teacher
OKU -KUN
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY UNCLE WHILE SHINO-HIME IS GETTING READY
PRINCIPAL ROOM
THIS IS MY UNCLE, THE PRINCIPAL

GOOD AFTER-NOON
NICE TO MEET YOU, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU
IM SORRY FOR MAKING SUCH A SUDDEN REQUEST
A FEMALE TEACHER WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF MOTHER MARY FELL SICK ALL OF A SUDDEN
AND WE DONT HAVE ANY OTHER YOUNG TEACHERS WHO MIGHT FIT THE ROLE
WE ARE NOT REALLY FAMILIAR WITH JESUS CHRIST SO I DONT KNOW HOW MUCH HELP WE ARE GOING TO BE
OH DONT WORRY
ALL SHINO-HIME HAS TO DO IS SIT STILL AND LOOK THE PART
MOTHER MARY DOESNT HAVE ANY LINES ANYWAY, AND I DONT THINK ANYONE WILL PAY ATTENTION TO LITTLE MISTAKES SINCE THIS IS A PLAY FOR THE CHILDREN
THEN WOULDNT IT HAVE BEEN OKAY IF YOU PLAYED THE PART TOO, MIYOSHI-SAN ?
NO WAY ..
WELL WE DID ASK HARUMI FOR HELP AT FIRST
BUT SHE TURNED US DOWN
SHE SAID THAT IT WAS EMBARASSING
IT'S JUST THAT THERE IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE RIGHT PART

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM
IT IS THE STORY OF THE HOLY NIGHT MOTHER MARY GAVE BIRTH TO JESUS CHRIST ...
FLIP
AS THE SHEPERDS LED THEIR SHEEP OUT TO GRAZE THE NIGHT SKY SHONE BRIGHT WITH MYSTERIOUS STARS
AS THE STARS ILLUMINATED IT'S SURROUNDINGS, THE SHEPERDS HEARD A VOICE ECHO THROUGH THEIR EARS
A MAJESTIC VOICE TOLD OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST ...
"IN A SMALL STABLE IN THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM LIES A CHILD WRAPPED IN CLOTH, HE SHALL BECOME THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ..."

AHH...
A CHRISTMAS PLAY
AT THE SAME TIME, 3 WISE MEN FROM THE EAST WERE LED BY THE STARS TO JESUS CHRIST
THEY EACH PRESENTED THEIR GIFTS TO THE NEWBORN BABY IN MOTHER MARY'S ARMS AND KNELT DOWN BEFORE HIM
"GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH"


"TO THE CHILD WHO WAS LOVED AND ACCEPTED BY EVERYONE"
THUD
THUD
THUD

OH
OH
HARUMI SAIZOU
SHINO-HIME HAS FINISHED GETTING READY!
WANT TO GO TAKE A LOOK?
SURE
KYAA
PATTER PATTER PATTER

NOW NOW MOVE ASIDE ...
YOU'RE IN THE WAY
KYAAA
GYAA
BAA
BAA
BAA
BAAA
IT SEEMS LIKE RUMOURS OF A NEW MOTHER MARY IN PLACE OF THE TEACHER HAS GOTTEN THE KIDS ALL FIRED UP
WH-
WHAT IS IT ?
AHH HAHA HEH
STEP
STEP
STEP
WELL ACTUALLY
HUHH ...
OH MY
EXCUSE ME !
WE'RE COMING IN SHINO -HIME
EHH
THAT'S CUZ WE HEARD THAT IT'S GOING TO BE A SUUUUPER PRETTY BIG SIS
WE WANT TO SEE HER TOO !!

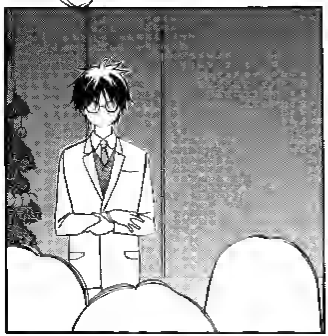
WHAT
SHE IS SO PRETTY ISNT SHE

KYAAA
BIG SIS DO YOU HAVE A BOY -FRIEND ...?
BAM
WE'RE LOCKED OUT
Y-
YOU'RE ACTING PETTY SAIZOU
BAM
BAM

OH COME ON, HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON LAUGHING
IM SORRY
IT'S JUST
HEHE
HEHE
THE MUSHI HEALINGS WEREN'T TO HELP OUT
YES
DO ! LOOK THAT BEAUTIFUL
TO MAKE YOU FEEL SO POSSESIVE OVER ME
SEEING YOU
IT MAKES ME SHY WHEN YOU ANSWER ME SO QUICKLY LIKE THAT ...

WHAT .?
DO YOU MEAN ?
HEHE
SEEING YOU ACT LIKE THAT
IT MAKES ME FEEL THAT ALL THIS IS REAL
LOOK SAIZOU,
IT'S A DOLL OF BABY JESUS
IM SUPPOSED TO HOLD THIS IN MY ARMS
DURING THE PLAY
THANK YOU
WHY
...

SO BRIGHT !
IT'S SO BRIGHT !
AHH
I WONDER WHAT THAT LIGHT IS ?



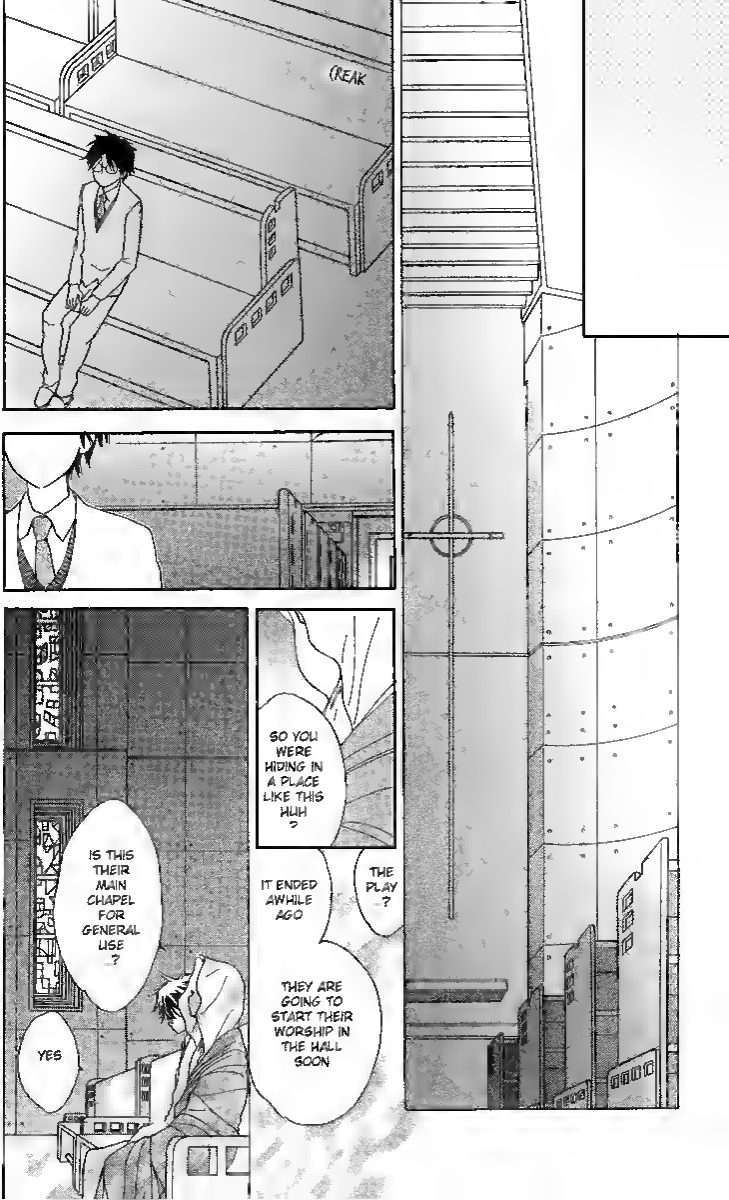
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MOTHER MARY

PEOPLE IN THE MEADOWS
DO NOT FEAR
FOR I AM HERE TO DELIVER NEWS WHICH WILL BRING GREAT BLESSINGS UPON ALL OF MANKIND

YES
UHM
MAY I ASK YOU SOMETHING ...?
YES ?
WHAT IS THE MORAL OF THIS STORY ?
THAT EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE HAPPINESS AND LIGHT IN THEIR LIVES ...
.....
I GUESS IT IS TRYING TO SAY ...

"TO THE CHILD WHO WAS LOVED AND ACCEPTED BY EVERYONE"
"YOU DONT WANT 'SHINOBU' ...?"
CAROLS

I WONDER WHAT I CAN REALLY DO FOR HER ...
I DONT THINK THAT WAS SOMETHING SHE NEEDED TO APOLOGISE SO BADLY FOR ..
"THANK YOU"
AND DID I DO SOMETHING FOR HER TO BE GRATEFUL FOR WITHOUT REALISING ...?


CREAK
SO YOU WERE HIDING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS HUH ?
THE PLAY –?
IT ENDED AWHILE AGO
IS THIS THEIR MAIN CHAPEL FOR GENERAL USE –?
THEY ARE GOING TO START THEIR WORSHIP IN THE HALL SOON
YES

SHINOBU -SAMA
CAN I ASK YOU SOME -THING ?
WHAT IS IT ?
DO YOU REMEMBER THE PROMISE I MADE TO YOU A LONG TIME AGO ..?
"YOU HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER"
"AND COME TO HELP ME ONE DAY"
YES
AT THAT TIME
DID YOU ALREADY HAVE IT ON YOUR BACK ?
YEA ..

WHAT CAN I DO FOR HER ...
I AM GLAD THAT YOU WERE BORN ..
I REALLY AM

SEEING HOW BRAVE AND TOUGH YOU ARE
HAS MADE ME A STRONGER PERSON
DO YOU KNOW
HOW MUCH STRENGTH AND SUPPORT THAT PROMISE HAS GIVEN ME
THE ONLY THING I BELIEVE IN
IS HOW HONEST AND RIGHTEOUS YOU ARE ...
THAT'S WHY I AM REALLY GLAD THAT YOU WERE BORN INTO THIS WORLD
ARE YOU SAYING
THAT YOU ACTUALLY 'WANT' ME ?

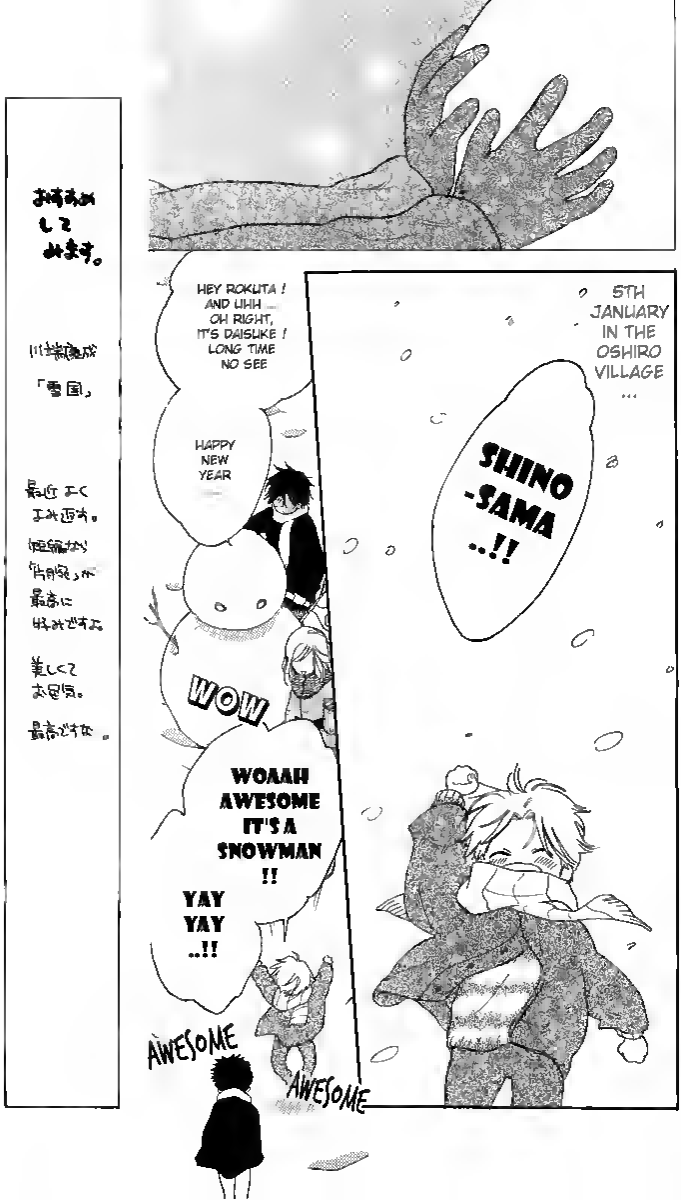
I DO ...
CAN I
HUG YOU, SAIZOU ..?

EVEN THOUGH
THIS IS A SELFISH WISH OF MINE
I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE IN IT WITH ALL YOUR HEART
NEVER FORGET IT . . .
ABOUT WHAT I SAID JUST NOW

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE...

Chapter 39

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE UP ..?



おすすめ
して
おります。

川端康成
「雪国」

最近よく
よみ返す。
短編から
作品数が
最高に
好みですよ。

美しくて
お見事。

最高ですな。

DID YOU COME HERE FOR NEW YEAR GREETINGS ?
WHACK
HAPPY NEW YEAR
.....
OSHI
I WANT YOU TO BRING SHINOBU THERE
YES
I SEE
TO SHOUGO -SAMA'S HOME FOR THE NEW YEAR HUH ?
PERSONALLY ...
SNIP

MAY I KNOW THE REASON I WAS ASKED TO FULFILL THIS ROLE-
THESE ARE KOUDA-SAN'S ORDERS
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW
SHINOBU HAS TO HOLD HIS FIRST BACK AT HIS TEMPLE FROM THE 1ST TO 3RD
TRADITIONALLY, AFTER KOUDA-SAN BRINGS SHINOBU HERE ON NEW YEAR'S NIGHT,
HE WILL ARRIVE AFTER THE 3RD DAY AS A REPRESENTITIVE OF THEIR HOUSE FOR THE NEW YEAR
HOWEVER, HE REQUESTED THAT SHINOBU BE BROUGHT THERE INSTEAD THIS YEAR
HIS HOME WAS A TEMPLE WASNT IT ?

PLEASE GO AHEAD ...
ISNT IT RATHER RUDE TO REQUEST THE AUTHORITY OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY TO SEND SOMEONE OVER
SHE GOT AHEAD OF ME
I GUESS IT'S NO USE SAYING THAT TO HIM
EITHERWAY, I BELIEVE THAT PLACE HOLDS MANY MEMORIES FOR YOU TOO SO I THINK YOU ARE IN FACT, QUITE SUITED FOR THE ROLE

MAY THE HAPPINESS AND BLESSINGS OF THE NEW YEAR BE UPON YOU
PLEASE EXTEND MY WELL WISHED TO SHOUKO -SAMA AS WELL,
WE ARE GREATLY HONORED FOR YOU TO PAY US A VISIT ON THIS AUSPICIOUS DAY
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
I AM VERY GRATEFUL TOWARDS SHOUGO -SAMA FOR I AM ALWAYS UNDER HIS CARE
IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT I PAY YOU A VISIT TO SHOW MY RESPECT
I, ON THE OTHER HAND APOLOGISE FOR NOT HAVING COME HERE SOONER

I AM DEEPLY SORRY ABOUT THIS !
ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIES FOR THE RUDENESS AND STUPIDITY OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER
TUG
TUG
TUG
OU-OOOUCH
IT HURTS, BROTHER ...
HEY, YOU GUYS MADE IT !
WHACK

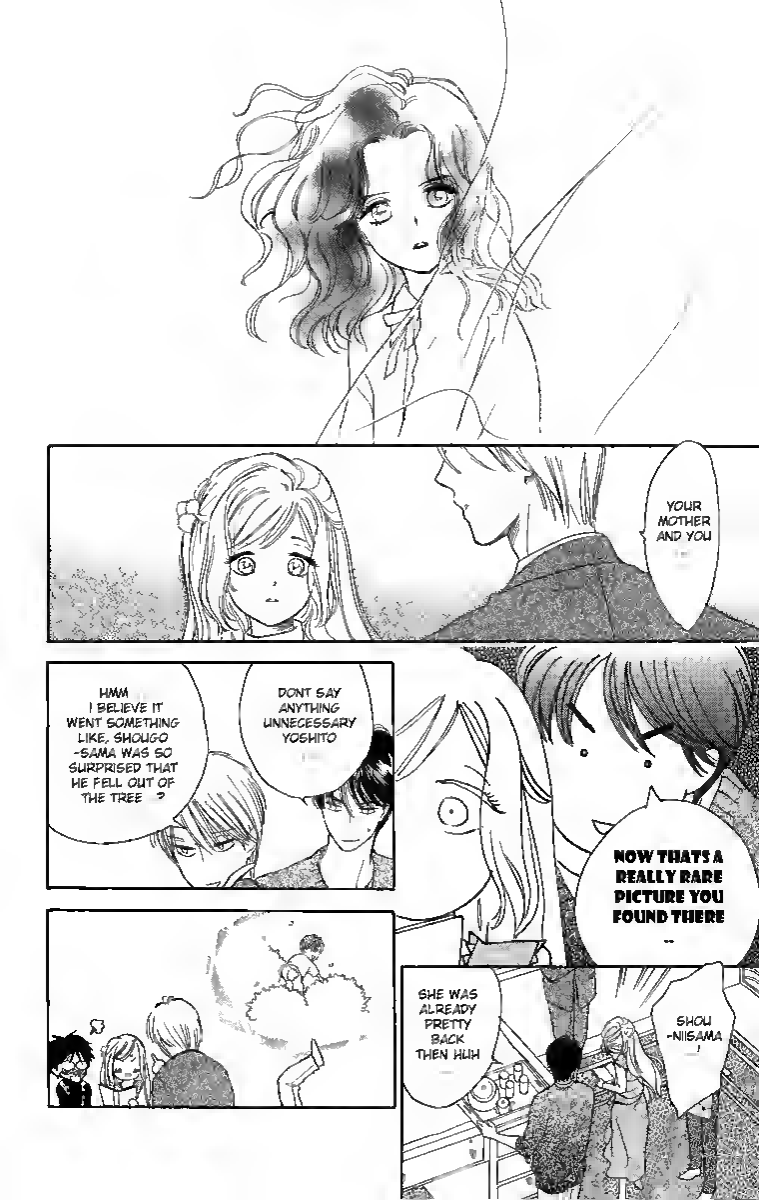
THE LORD'S ELDER BROTHER
THAT PERSON IS HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW
EH?
HE BECAME THE SUCCESSOR OF THIS TEMPLE AFTER MARRYING SHOUGO-SAMA'S SISTER
OH NO, WE'RE SORRY TO INTRUDE AT SUCH A BUSY TIME
PLEASE DO NOT BLAME SHOU-NIISAMA OVER THIS
WHAT A PITY
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK US IF YOU NEED ANYTHING
WE HAVE PREPARED ROOMS FOR EACH OF YOU
THAT'S CUZ WE'RE CHILDHOOD BUDDIES
.....
OH THERE'S AN ALBUM!
MAY I TAKE A LOOK AT IT, SHOU-NIISAMA?
HOW WOULD YOSHITO-SAN KNOW-
I HAVENT TOUCHED IT EVER SINCE I LEFT HOME, GOD KNOWS HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE FOR ME TO STRAIGHTEN THIS PLACE UP IF I STARTED CLEANING NOW
YEA
IS THIS THE ROOM THAT YOU USED IN THE PAST, LORD?
DONT YOU JUST MISS THIS ROOM, YOSHITO...?

MY History
ROCK & ROLL
BEAUTIFUL ME
MY CELEBRATION
GOOO-LOOKIN
CUTE OL' ME
You not
SOMETIMES, I QUESTION YOUR CHARACTER ...
WHO WOULD ENJOY LOOKING AT THESE
Awww ! Shou -niisama you were sooo cute ♡
AHH
OH COULD YOU BRING-
UH NEVER MIND, I'LL GO GET IT LATER
SHOUGO-SAN, WE HAVE PREPARED SOME TEA IN THE LIVING ROOM

SHOU-
....
KO
-SAMA
?
OHH
THAT.
OF
COURSE
SHE'S IN
THERE
BUT
WHY
!?
BECAUSE
WE WERE
CHILDHOOD
FRIENDS
MOTHER
..?

SHOUGO -SAMA'S MOTHER
WAS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT SHOUKO-SAMA PROPER MANNERS AND ETIQUETTE
SHE HAD BEEN A TEACHER AT SHOUKO -SAMA'S HOME FOR QUITE A LONG TIME, I REMEMBER BECAUSE I HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT HERE FOR TRAINING AT THAT TIME
IT WAS ALSO ABOUT THE TIME THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN
I HAD ONLY MET HER ONCE BACK THEN
MY MOTHER BACK THEN ?
WHAT WAS SHE LIKE ?
IT WAS BACK WHEN I WAS SENT RUNNING AROUND THE VILLAGE LOOKING FOR SHOUGO-SAMA WHO HAD SKIPPED ALL HIS CLASSES
SHOUGO "-SAMA" WHEN HE WAS YOUNG USED TO GO MISSING LIKE THAT FROM TIME TO TIME ...

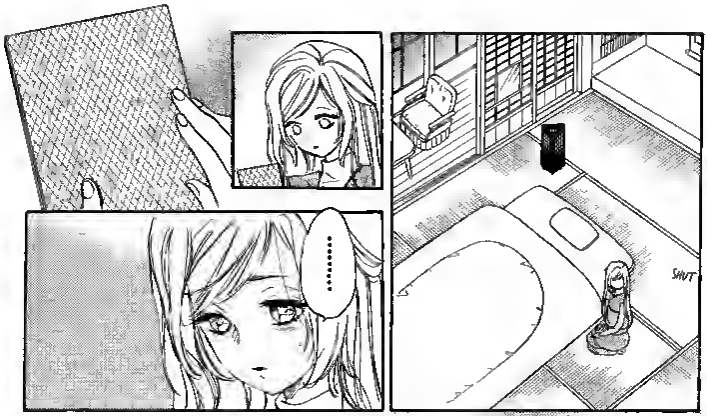
IT'S NO WONDER NO ONE COULD EVER FIND HIM UNLESS HE CHOSE TO RETURN ON HIS OWN ACCORD ..
IT WAS PROBABLY PLAIN LUCK
THAT I MANAGED TO FIND HIM ...
AT THE ONLY WESTERN -STYLED HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE ...
SHOUGO -SAMA !
YOSHITO ..?


YOUR MOTHER AND YOU
NOW THATS A REALLY RARE PICTURE YOU FOUND THERE
SHOU -NIISAMA
SHE WAS ALREADY PRETTY BACK THEN HUH
DONT SAY ANYTHING UNNECESSARY YOSHITO
HMM I BELIEVE IT WENT SOMETHING LIKE, SHOUGO -SAMA WAS SO SURPRISED THAT HE FELL OUT OF THE TREE ?

LOOKS LIKE YOU WANT TO PLAY A GAME OF 'EXPOSING EMBARASSING PAST MOMENTS' WITH ME ...
FWIP
CRRAAK
HOW CAN YOU BE SO IMMATURE !!!
TAKE THAT !
ALCOHOL CHOCOLATE ATTACK !!
RATTLE
RATTLE
BLAME IT ON YOUR DROOLY LITTLE MOUTH ..!?

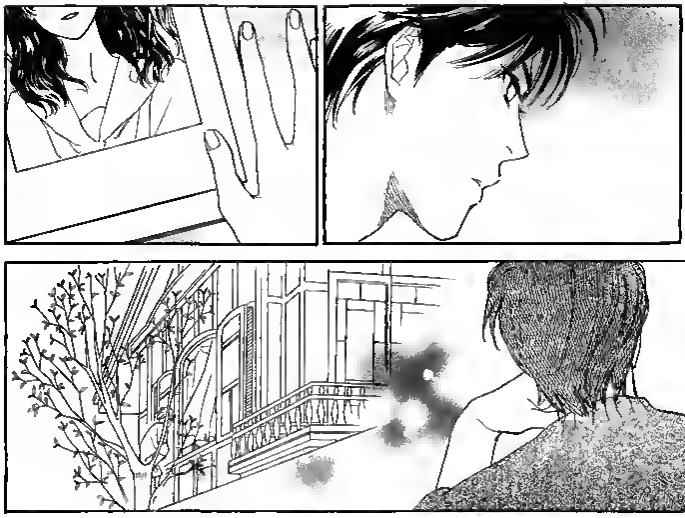
YOSHITO -SAN !!
CAN'T TAKE ALCOHOL
DONG
SHOU -NIISAMA YOU WOULD ALWAYS KEEP SECRETS,
BUT YOU WOULD NEVER TELL A LIE WOULD YOU
THAT'S A SECRET
COULD IT BE THAT SHOU-NIISAMA'S FIRST LOVE WAS MOTHER ...?

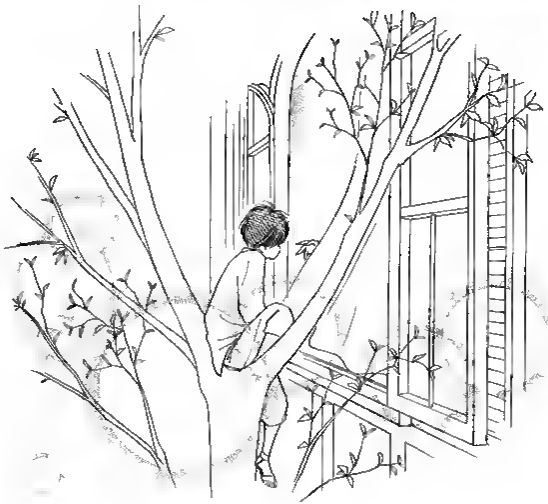
"SHOU -NIISAMA DID YOU LIKE MY MOTHER?"
I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU
"THAT'S A SECRET"
WHAT ?
13 YEARS AGO
THIS WAS A PRESENT GIVEN TO ME BY SHOUKO -SAN
I'LL LET YOU HAVE IT SO YOU CAN TAKE A LOOK LATER
GOOD NIGHT

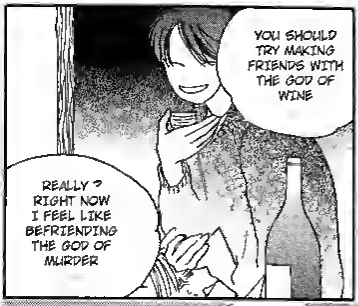

.....
SHUT

FLIP
HUH ...?
WHY IS THERE SHOU-NIISAMA'S PICTURE IN IT ...
HUH ... AND THIS BELONGED TO MOTHER ??
HE SAID IT WAS 'A PRESENT' ...
COME TO THINK IT, THE PICTURE JUST NOW ...

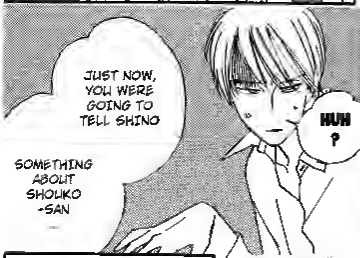
FLIP
D
OH SORRY ABOUT THAT, SAIZOU
SLAM
YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND REST TOO
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOSHITO -SAN ?
I SEE
ALRIGHT THEN
DONT WORRY, I'LL LOOK AFTER HIM
HURRY UP
PLEASE TRY NOT TO OVEREXERT YOURSELF
OKAY
OKAY



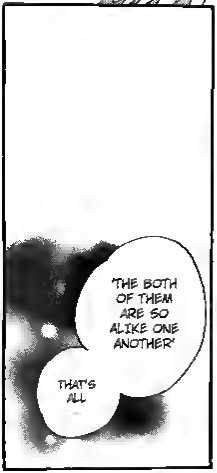



YOU SHOULD TRY MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE GOD OF WINE
REALLY ? RIGHT NOW I FEEL LIKE BEFRIENDING THE GOD OF MURDER

THUD
THUD
I FEEL TERRIBLE
...
YO
YOU'RE AWAKE HUH
HOW DO YOU FEEL ?


JUST NOW, YOU WERE GOING TO TELL SHINO
SOMETHING ABOUT SHOUKO -SAN
...
HUH ?

SHINO AND HER MOTHER ?
YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT


'THE BOTH OF THEM ARE SO ALIKE ONE ANOTHER'
THAT'S ALL
...

AHH
...

LOOKING AT THE PICTURE OF SHOUKO -SAMA
I JUST THOUGHT SHINOBU -SAMA TAKES AFTER HER MOTHER
YUP
BUT
I WILL NOT ALLOW SAIZOU TO HAVE HER ...

WHAT ...
DID YOU JUST SAY ?
IT'S NOTHING
REALLY ..
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

CLINK
CLANK
THUNK
OOMPH
...!
SAIZOU
LOOK AT THIS !!
SHI-
SHINOBU -SAMA ?
LOOK ...
AT THIS PICTURE ...

I RECOGNISE THIS
THIS KIMONO WORN BY THE PERSON HOLDING ME AS A BABY
MY MOTHER WORE THIS WHEN SHE MARRIED INTO THE FAMILY
I
MOTHER
...

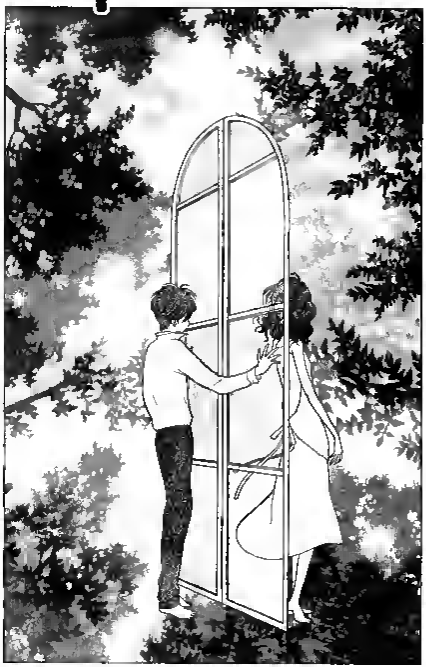
LOOKING AT THIS PICTURE,
DOESNT IT LOOK LIKE SHE TOOK THE PICTURE HERSELF ?
SEE, THE SHOT WAS TAKEN TOO CLOSELY THAT THE CAMERA COULDNT FOCUS PROPERLY SO IT'S A LITTLE BLURRED
MOTHER
HELD ME IN HER ARMS ?
SEE ?
ARENT YOU HAPPY ?
SHINOBU -SAMA
"I AM REALLY GLAD THAT YOU WERE BORN"

I LIKE YOU SO MUCH, SAIZOU ...
IM SO HAPPY !

.....
I DIDNT REALLY DO ANYTHING
THANK YOU ...
I LIKE YOU ...
SO ...
SO MUCH ..!

I LIKE YOU ...

Chapter 40



LORD
YO !
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ?
I THOUGHT I SHOULD AT LEAST GREET SHOUKO-SAMA BEFORE RETURNING TO TOKYO
OSHIRO

USELESS REPORT II

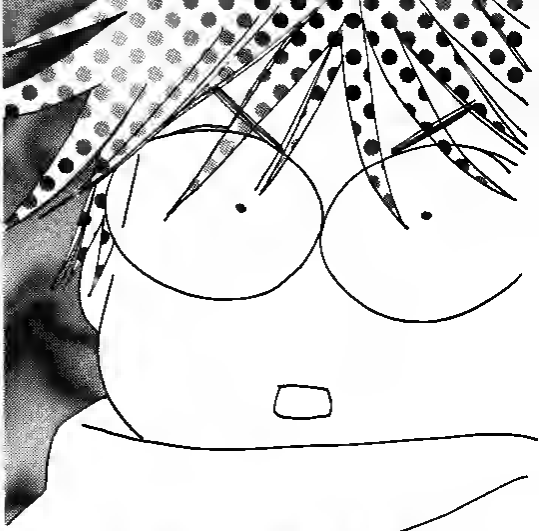
SHE IS THANKFUL FROM THE BOTTOM OF HER HEART THAT SHE WASN'T NAMED UMEKO OR TAKEKO INSTEAD.

OSHIRO SHOUKO

Note: 'Shou' means pine. 'Ume' means plum. Take means bamboo. She probably thinks those were possible names for her since they are all names of plants.

BUT HE WASNT AT HOME
TO TELL SASUKE THAT WE ARE LEAVING TONIGHT
THE MISHIMA HOUSE
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN INSIDE WITH SHINO THE WHOLE TIME, WHERE DID YOU GO ?
AND YOU ...?
YOU COULD HAVE WAITED FOR HER INSIDE THE HOUSE
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAS A GUEST OVER AT THE MOMENT
ASK IF HE WANTS TO COME ALONG SINCE WE ARE DRIVING HOME ANYWAY
WHY DONT YOU TRY AGAIN BEFORE WE LEAVE
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING ?

I SAW THE PICTURES THAT YOU GAVE TO SHINOBU-SAMA
HMM
DID SHE LIKE THEM ?
YES !
SHE WAS REALLY HAPPY, BUT LORD WHAT WERE THOSE-
I SEE, THAT'S GOOD
LORD !
HEY SAIZOU,
DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU AND SHINO MET ?
FOR ME
THE VERY FIRST TIME I MET SHOUKO -SAN
SHOUGO -SAMA
I ACCIDENTALLY SAW HER UNDRESSING ...

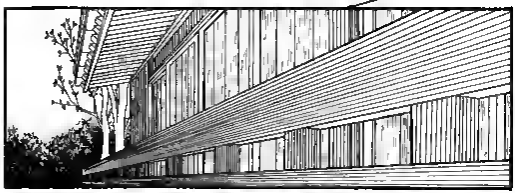


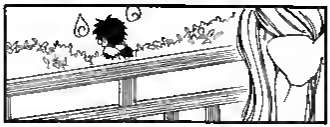
最近のハマりもの。㊂

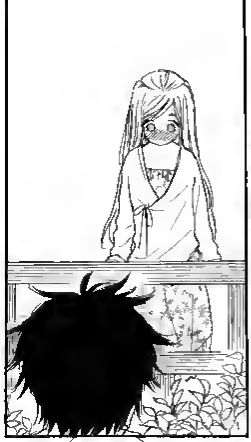
（ハヤセ）

じつはネムがPAINに3歳という名前を使ったのは宮井歩さんのファンだからなのです。

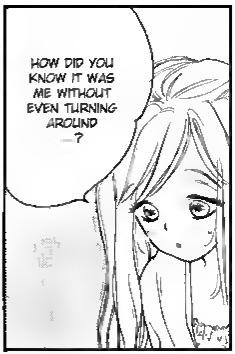
「人形生活」の投稿作を見つけてきてからなったので宮井歩さんのエッセイなのです。

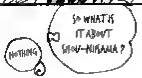






OF COURSE I CAN TELL !


HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME WITHOUT EVEN TURNING AROUND —?


So WHAT IS IT ABOUT SHOU-NIISAMA ?
NOTHING

THE YOUNG LADY OF THE ONLY WESTERN MANSION IN THE ENTIRE VILLAGE
BEFORE I MET SHOUKO-SAN WHO SELDOM SHOWED HER FACE IN FRONT OF ANYONE, I IMAGINED HER TO BE LIKE A SWEET CANDY
THE FIRST TIME I MET HER HUH

ACK
OOPS
THUD
THUD
THUD
OH NO
SHE'S GOING TO CRY
...

FWIP
SMACK
SO SCARY ...

#EH
#EH
?
TURNS OUT MY MOTHER WAS A TUTOR AT HER HOUSE
AHH HEY THERE
LOOKS LIKE YOU DIDNT LEARN A THING FROM THAT HIT YESTERDAY
I JUST CAME TO APOLOGISE
I HEARD YOU'RE THE BOY FROM THE TEMPLE, AM I RIGHT ?
YUP
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO GET KILLED BY MY MOTHER'S LIGHTNING FURY WHEN I GOT HOME YESTERDAY
BUT NOTHING HAPPENED
YOU DIDNT TELL ON ME HUH, PRINCESS ?
WELL THAT'S BECAUSE I ALREADY PUNISHED YOU MYSELF !

THANKS A BUNCH ..!
?
WHAT IS IT ?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE HERE TO APOLOGISE ...?
XIE XIE
Note: 'Xie Xie' means Thank You in Chinese
FLAP FLAP
YOU'RE PRETTY THOUGHFUL FOR A TROUBLE -MAKER
ANYWAY, WHY DID YOU EVEN THINK OF CLIMBING THE TREE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE ...?
WELL THAT-
WOOAH ..!!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU ?
THAT IS NOT AN ENTRANCE
BESIDES IF MY MOM KNEW THAT HER SON WAS COMING IN AND OUT OF HER WORKPLACE
IT'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO COME THROUGH THE FRONT DOORS OF THIS MANSION

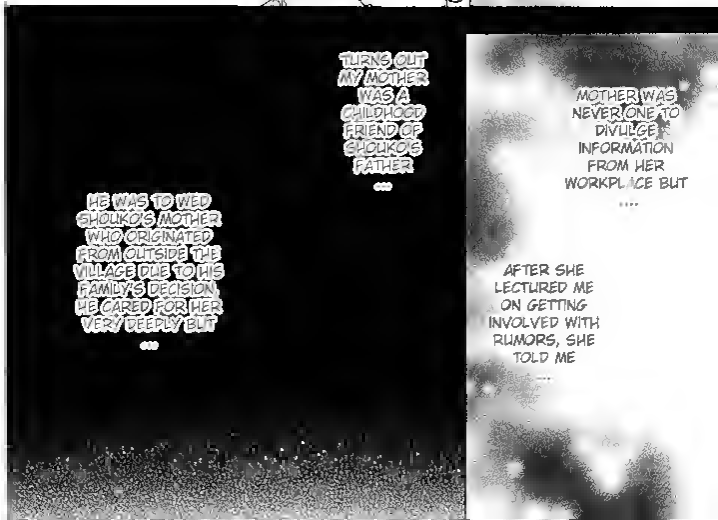
OH DEAR
ON THAT DAY,
YOU WERE PLAYING WITH THE BIRDS FROM YOUR WINDOW TOO RIGHT ?
I HAPPENED TO SEE IT FROM THE ALLEY
AND THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT
I JUST COULDNT HELP MYSELF
YOU'RE RATHER AUDACIOUS FOR A LITTLE KID AREN'T YOU
SO SHY...
HM ?
YOU'RE READING A BOOK TODAY HUH ?

FOR SOME REASON, I REALISED AT THAT TIME ..
THAT SHE DID NOT HAVE A MOTHER ..
EHH
.....
THIS BOOK IS MY MOM'S FAVOURITE BOOK
IS IT INTERESTING ?
HEH
GRAB

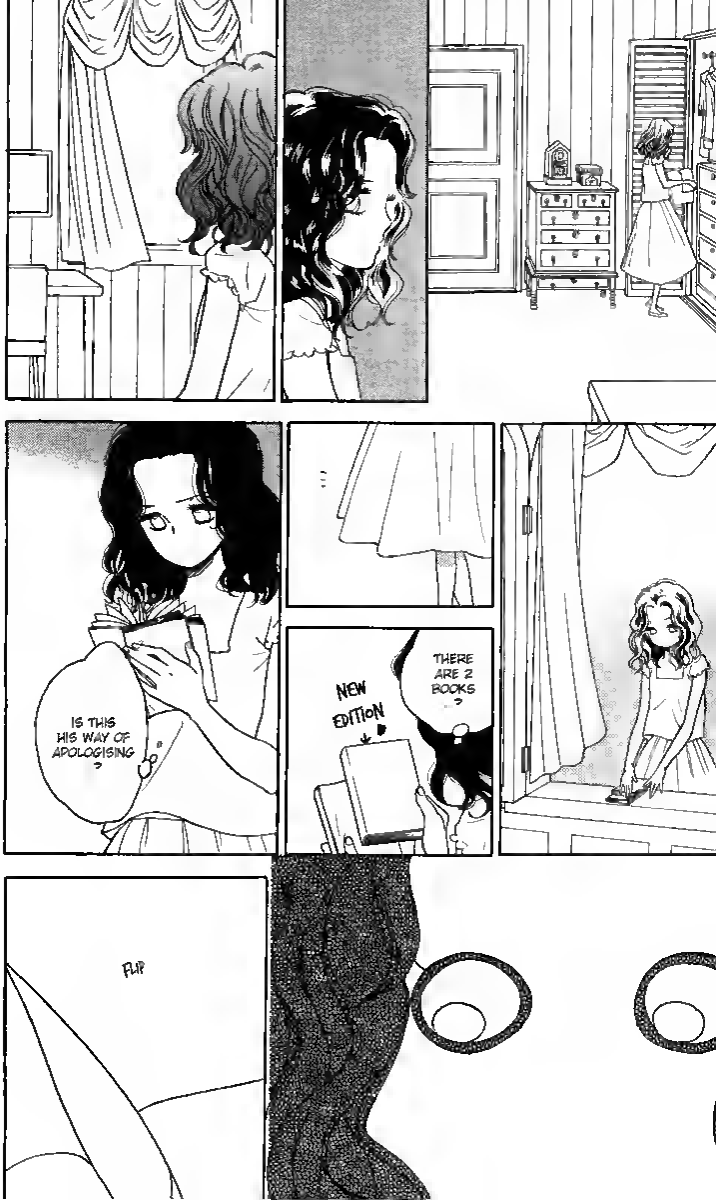
GASP
THROW
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING !???
OH MY GOD, WHAT AM I DOING ...!
UH
MY HAND JUST MOVED AND
THAT WAS A REALLY IMPORTANT BOOK !!
THEN DONT GO MAKING THAT FACE WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT ...!
NOW WHAT AM I SAYING ...

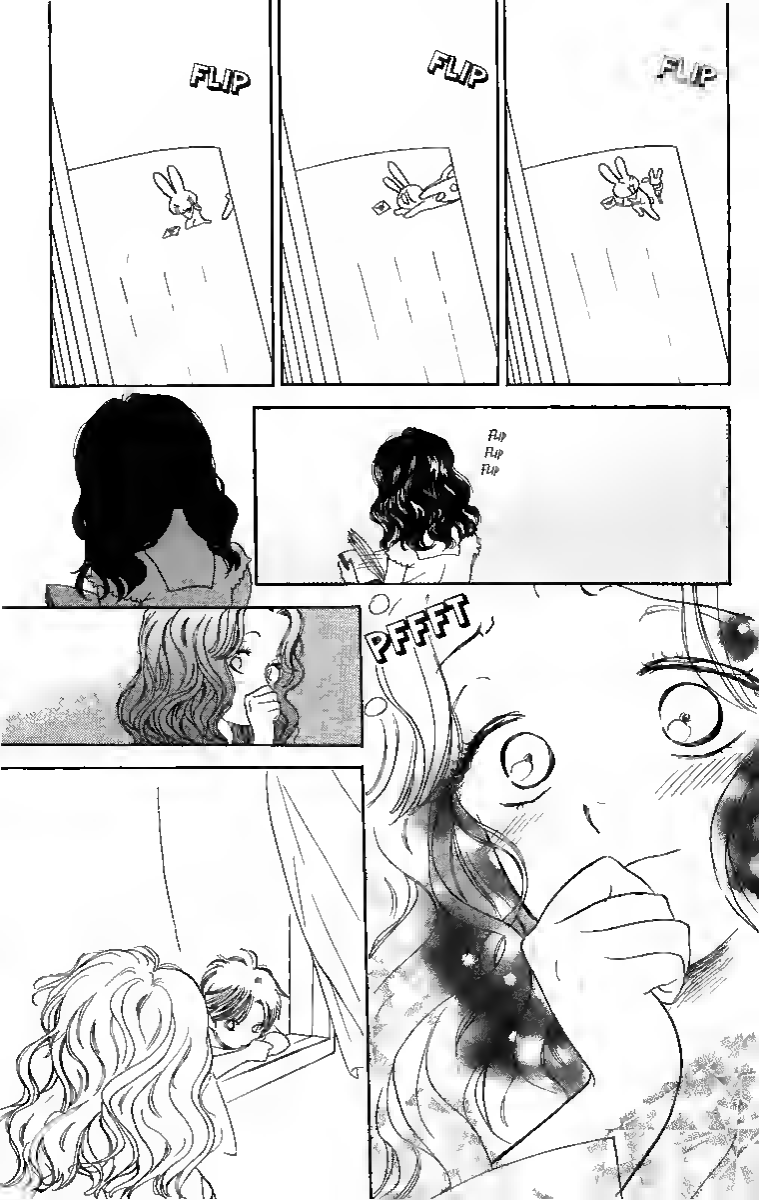
SLAM
WAH!
AHH...

THAT NIGHT, I WENT TO MY MOM TO ASK ABOUT THAT GIRL'S MOTHER
...

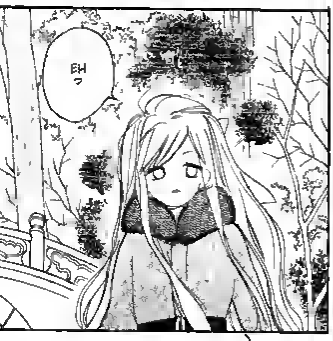

TURNS OUT MY MOTHER WAS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF SHOUKO'S FATHER
...
HE WAS TO WED SHOUKO'S MOTHER WHO ORIGINATED FROM OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE DUE TO HIS FAMILY'S DECISION. HE CARED FOR HER VERY DEEPLY BUT
...
MOTHER WAS NEVER ONE TO DIVULGE INFORMATION FROM HER WORKPLACE BUT
....
AFTER SHE LECTURED ME ON GETTING INVOLVED WITH RUMORS, SHE TOLD ME
...

SHOUKO'S MOTHER...
THREW ASIDE HER FAMILY AND ELOPED WITH A LOVER SHE HAD ON THE OUTSIDE...
APPARENTLY, THIS HAPPENED WHEN SHOUKO WAS ONLY 3 YEARS OLD
FLIP
THE BOOK THAT I THREW FROM THE TOP OF THE TREE SEEMED VERY OLD
YOU CAN TELL BY JUST ONE LOOK, THAT THE PAGES HAVE BEEN FLIPPED COUNTLESS TIMES
I WENT AHEAD AND PICKED IT UP BUT...


IS THIS HIS WAY OF APOLOGISING ?
NEW EDITION
THERE ARE 2 BOOKS ?
FLIP


FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
Flip
Flip
Flip
PFFFT

I JUST DIDNT WANT HER TO MAKE SUCH A SAD FACE EVER AGAIN
IT WAS SO FRUSTRATING THAT I COULDNT STAND IT
A 368 PAGE COMIC STRIP WAS PRETTY INTENSE
WONT SLEEP FOR 3 DAYS TO MAKE THAT



I JUST WANTED TO SEE HER SMILE ...

WHAT IS IT ?
?
.....
HMPH !
PLEASE DONT ASK ME THIS QUESTION ...
DONT TELL ME YOU REMEMBER, SAIZOU ??
SAME GOES FOR YOU TOO !
UHM ...
WE'RE HEADING HOME TODAY RIGHT ?
BUT BEFORE THAT, I ...
THERE IS A PLACE I WANT TO VISIT TOGETHER WITH YOU

I RECEIVED MY TATTOO
THIS IS WHERE
THERE IS AN UNDER -GROUND WAREHOUSE BEYOND THE MAIN SHRINE
WE CANT ENTER BECAUSE I DONT HAVE THE KEY BUT
RUSTLE

FWOOOSH
WHY DID SHE CALL ME OUT TO A PLACE LIKE THIS
SIGH
WALK
.....
CHIYO -NEE
WHAT ?
THE PRINCESS AND SAIZOU ARE HERE
OH MY, A SECRET RENDEZVOUS ?
WHA-
RENDEZ-
SHHH ...!
SHOVE

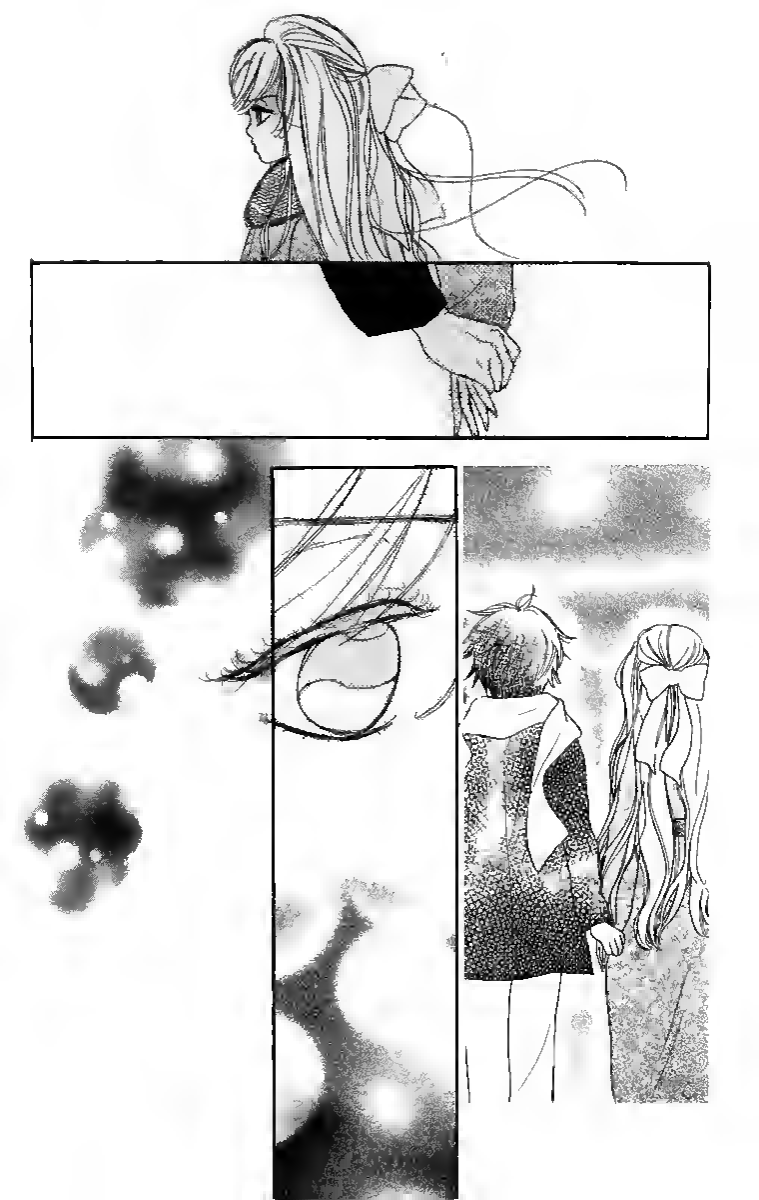
WHO ARE THOSE LOT OF PEOPLE ...
SOME OF THEM LOOK FAMILIAR,
I WONDER IF THEY ARE BUSINESS PARTNERS OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY
BUT TO ENTERTAIN THEM IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
WHO KNOWS ...?
COULD BE ANOTHER SECRET RENDEZVOUS ?
THEY'RE PROBABLY HERE FOR THE SAME REASON AS US
TO FIND A SECLUDED PLACE FOR PRIVATE TALK
LOOK AT THAT !

YOU KNOW THAT PICTURE,
I GAVE IT TO SHINO THE OTHER DAY ..
I SEE ..

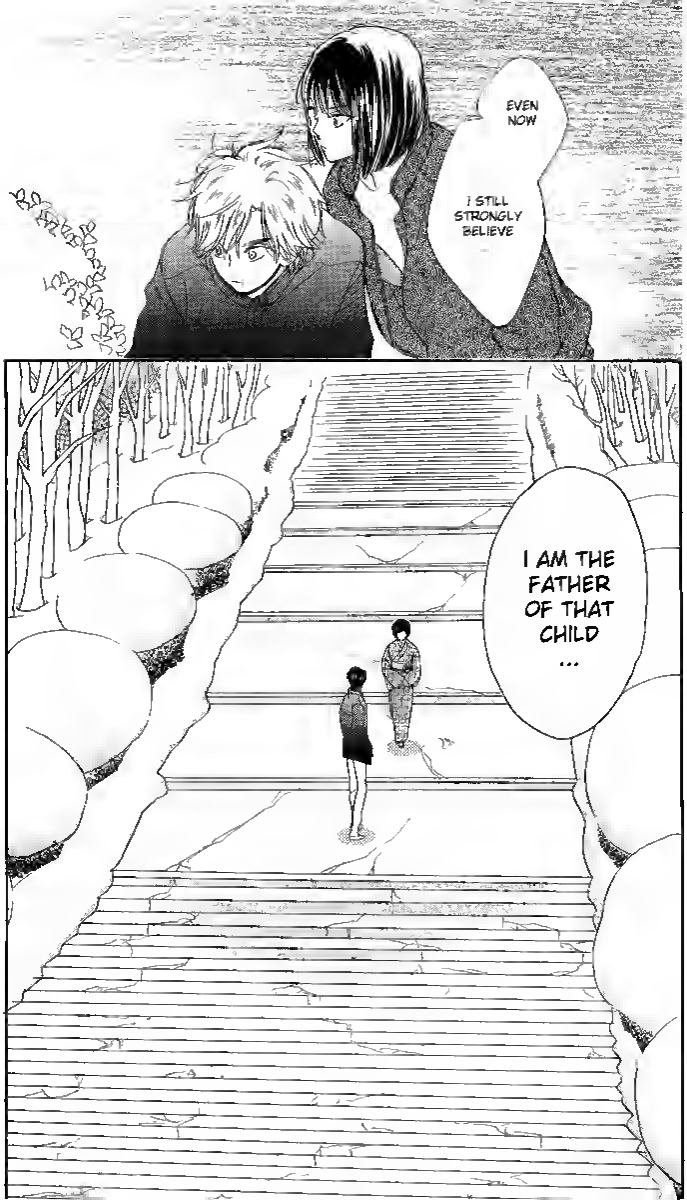
YOU'RE RATHER AUDACIOUS
FOR A LITTLE KID
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE ..
BEFORE YOU STOP TREATING ME LIKE A LITTLE KID ?
I LIKE YOU, SHOUKO-SAN ...

SHE IS
TREMBLING
...

I WAS ALWAYS...
SO AFRAID...
SHINOBU-SAMA...?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME HERE...
I NEVER HAD THE COURAGE TO COME BACK HERE...



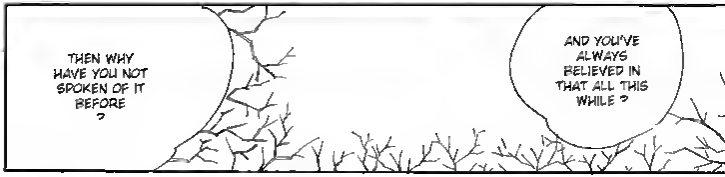
IT SEEMS LIKE SAIZOU SAW THE PICTURE TOO
HE LOOKED LIKE HE HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT
HE MUST BE SO SURPRISED AT MY CHILD-HOOD PICTURE
AND THE OTHER PICTURE WHICH LOOKED LIKE IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE SEEN BY ANYONE
HE MUST BE WONDERING WHY I HAVE THESE PICTURES
AND TO HEAR THAT THEY WERE GIVEN BY YOU AS A PRESENT TO ME
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO THEM
WHETHER IT WAS THE TIME YOU GAVE ME THE PICTURES
OR THAT TIME YOU ASKED ME TO RAISE THE CHILD
I NEVER ASKED YOU THIS QUESTION


EVEN NOW
I STILL STRONGLY BELIEVE
I AM THE FATHER OF THAT CHILD ...

Chapter 41

"WHATEVER YOU WISH OF ME" WAS HIS ANSWER ...
HE WAS READY TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING FOR ME; TO GIVE ME EVERYTHING I WISHED FOR ...

SO YOU SAY
YOU ARE SHINOBU'S FATHER ..?


THEN WHY HAVE YOU NOT SPOKEN OF IT BEFORE ?
AND YOU'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THAT ALL THIS WHILE ?

I TRUST THAT THE PERSON SHE HAS GROWN INTO
IT IS BECAUSE SHE IS ABLE TO LET GO OF ME NOW
WILL SURELY BE ABLE TO ACCEPT IT ..
AND WHAT ARE YOUR REASONS
FOR BRINGING THIS UP NOW AFTER KEEPING QUIET FOR SO LONG ?
YOU AND I BOTH
THAT'S RATHER PRESUMPTIOUS OF YOU

.....
THANK YOU ...
REALLY

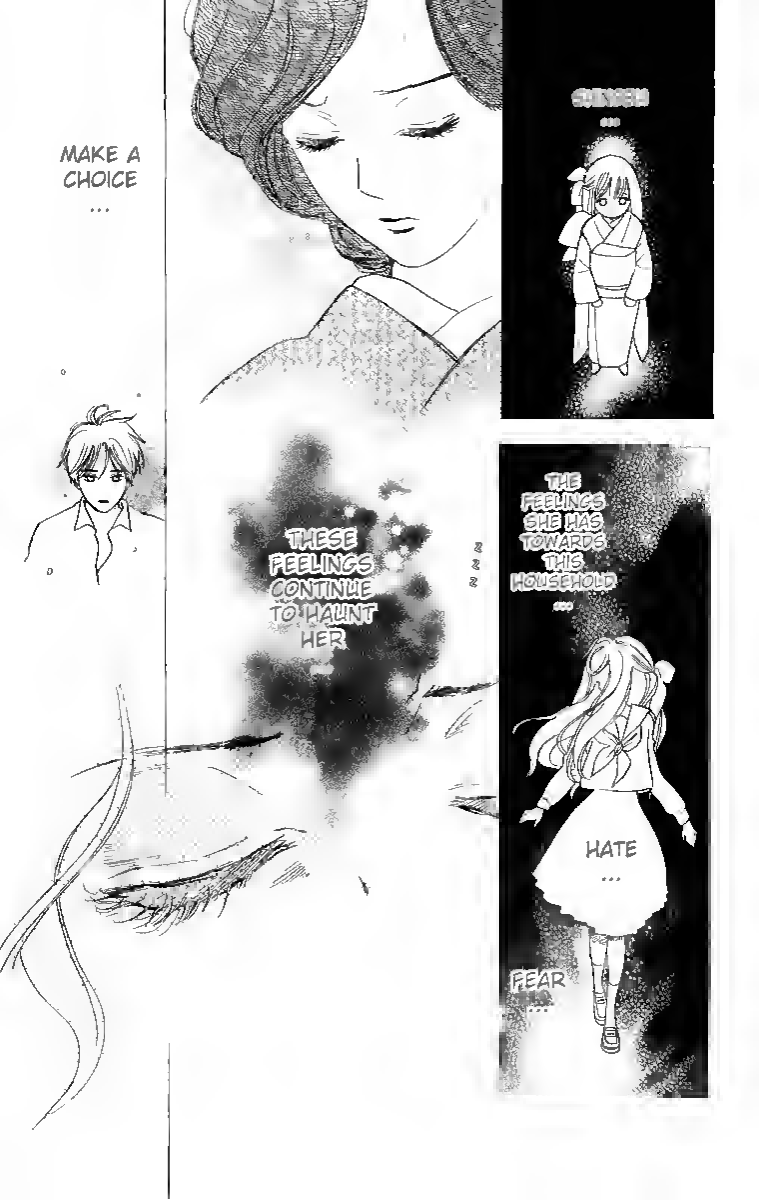
SHOCK
!

3
MONTHS
...

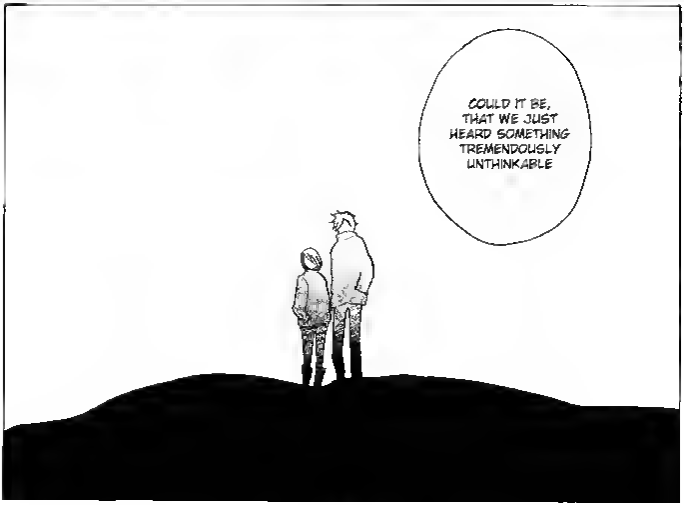
HUH ?
I WAS SUPPOSED TO MARRY INTO THE OSHIRO FAMILY AT THE AGE OF 19
AHH
BUT
THE VERY FIRST TIME I MET MY FIANCE WHOM I'VE ONLY SEEN IN PICTURES
THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY WAS ONLY HELD 3 MONTHS AFTER I ENTERED THAT HOUSE
BECAUSE THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM HE MERELY WALKED PAST ME IN A RUSH TO ATTEND A BUSINESS TRIP
AND AT THAT TIME, I ALREADY HAD SHINOBU INSIDE OF ME ...

WHAAT ?
MOTHER WENT OUT FOR THE DAY ?
FOR WORK ?
YES, SHE IS A VERY BUSY PERSON AFTER ALL
BUT THAT MEANS SHE HASNT EVEN GOTTEN ANY DECENT REST SINCE THE NEW YEAR !

I JUST WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE TO HER ...
ARE YOU SURE IT IS ALRIGHT ? WITHOUT EVEN SAYING GOODBYE TO SHINOBU -SAMA ...
YOSHTO ...
YES ?
IN THAT CASE, PLEASE SEND MY GREETINGS TO HER AND TELL HER TO TAKE CARE OF HER HEALTH
THANK YOU
IM GOING SLEEP FOR AWHILE ...


MAKE A CHOICE ...
SUKEYORI ...
THESE FEELINGS CONTINUE TO HAUNT HER
THE FEELINGS SHE HAS TOWARDS THIS HOUSEHOLD ...
HATE ...
FEAR ...

BECAUSE I DONT HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO REMAIN CALM AROUND THEM
WHY DIDNT YOU RETURN WITH SAIZOU AND THE PRINCESS ?


COULD IT BE, THAT WE JUST HEARD SOMETHING TREMENDOUSLY UNTHINKABLE

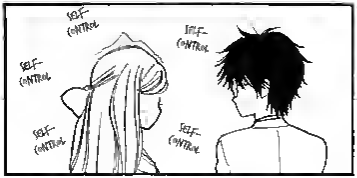
AWW HOW CUTE !
IS THAT YOUR PICTURE ?
YUP ?
HAVE YOU EVER IMAGINED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO HAVE YOUR OWN CHILD ?
HARUMI !
YEA !
I GOT IT DURING THE NEW YEAR WHILE I WAS BACK HOME
IT'S A NICE PICTURE ISN'T IT !
HEY HARUMI

POW

EH
SAIZOU AND SHINO -HIME
YOU GUYS TIED THE KNOT ...
GASP
YOU GUYS HAVE A PRETTY SCARY IMAGINATION
BUT YOU MUST BE JOKING !
WH- WH- WHAAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ..!!?

SOBS
I'VE MISJUDGED YOU SAIZOU, I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE ONE TO MAKE A MOVE SO QUICKLY !!
ISNT IT A NINJA'S CREED TO ENDURE THE IMPOSSIBLE AND WITHSTAND ALL TEMPTATION !!?

IT WOULD BE RUDE TO EVEN THINK THAT A SERVANT LIKE ME COULD BE A SUITABLE PARTNER


SELF-CONTROL
SELF-CONTROL
SELF-CONTROL
SELF-CONTROL

SELF-CONTROL
FLAMES OF FURY

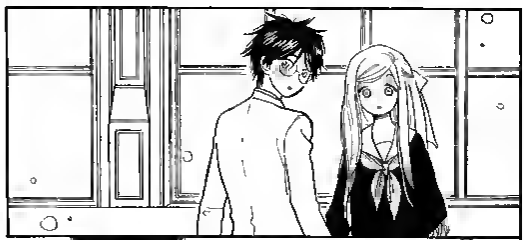
中野米雅

「旅の絵本」
I ～ V
（複数巻発売中）

世界の美しい景色の絵本が出ました。

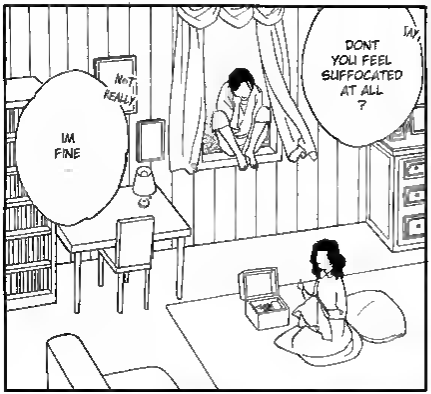
一人の旅人が色々な国を旅してその景色を描いたシリーズ絵本です。
（1冊につき1巻）

隣の席の遊び絵を発見するのが子供の頃から大好きだった。



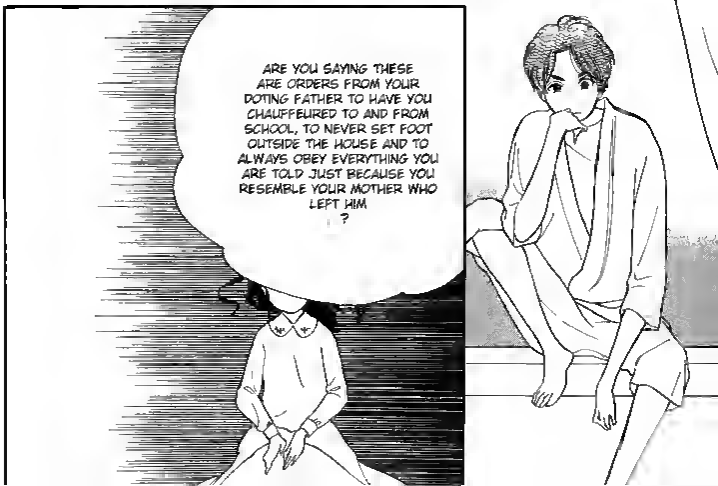
SHOUKO -SAN COLLAPSED ..
THUD THUD THUD
IT SEEMS THAT SHE HAS BEEN OVERWORKING HERSELF AND STRAINED HER BODY
AND SHE ALSO HAS A SEVERE LACK OF SLEEP THESE PAST FEW DAYS
IT DOESNT SEEM TO BE SERIOUS BUT SHE WENT FOR A HOSPITAL EXAMINATION JUST IN CASE
CHATTER
CHATTER
I SEE
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK YOSHITO
YOU GUYS CAME TO TOKYO FOR WORK ?
I GOT SUCH A SHOCK WHEN SHE COLLAPSED RIGHT AFTER HER MEETING CONCLUDED
IM SORRY FOR NOT HAVING NOTICED HER CONDITION DEPITE BEING WITH HER FOR 3 DAYS STRAIGHT

PHEW
SHE FEELS COLD
TOUCH


IM FINE
NOT REALLY
DONT YOU FEEL SUFFOCATED AT ALL ?
HM,

LETS GO OUT SOME TIME OKAY ? YOU CANT JUST STAY COOPED UP IN YOUR ROOM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR RIGHT ?
I HAVE NO REASON TO GO OUT

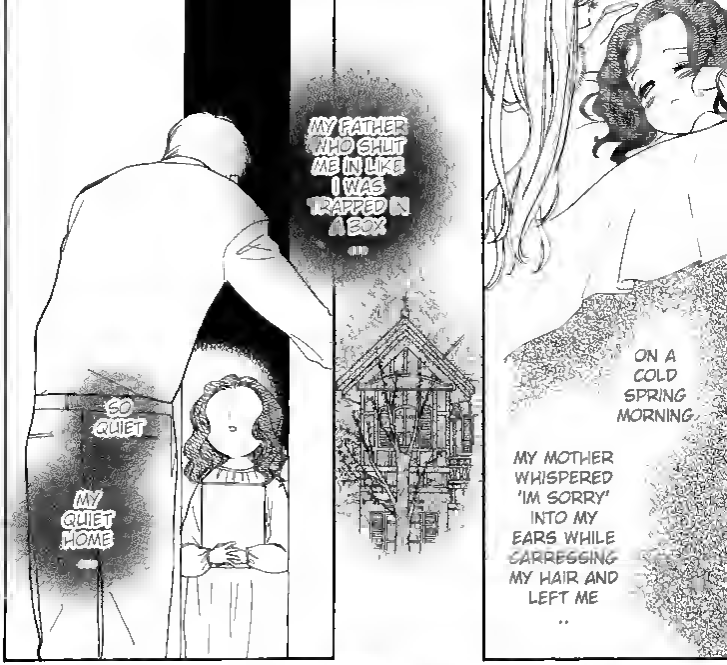
WHEN I GO OUTSIDE
MY FATHER HATES IT


ARE YOU SAYING THESE ARE ORDERS FROM YOUR DOTING FATHER TO HAVE YOU CHAUFFEURED TO AND FROM SCHOOL, TO NEVER SET FOOT OUTSIDE THE HOUSE AND TO ALWAYS OBEY EVERYTHING YOU ARE TOLD JUST BECAUSE YOU RESEMBLE YOUR MOTHER WHO LEFT HIM ?

ME, OF COURSE ...
BY WHO ?
YOU'RE GOING TO GET STABBED ONE DAY YOU KNOW ...
YOUR PET BIRD DIED BECAUSE YOU WERE CONSTANTLY WATCHING OVER IT WITHOUT GIVING IT ANY FREEDOM ...
I WONDER ...
DO YOU PLAN TO BE RAISED LIKE A PET YOUR WHOLE LIFE ..?
I AM NOT A PET

WOW ...
THE SKY IS REALLY CLEAR
ISN'T IT ?
IT'S COLD ....
IF YOU DONT MIND, IM HAPPY TO GIVE YOU SOME BODY WARMTH . . ?
NO THANK YOU !
I MUSN'T BE PROVOKED BY HIM SO EASILY
SHOUKO -SAN !
LETS MEET AGAIN UNDER THE SHINING SUN ONE DAY
HONESTLY

MOTHER ?
I WAS AMAZED ...
IT WAS SCARY TALKING TO HIM ...
THERE WAS NO TIME TO THINK ...
HE EXPOSED MY WEAKNESS THAT I HAVE ALWAYS PRETENDED NOT TO SEE ...
BUT I FELT SO COMFORTABLE WITH HIM .

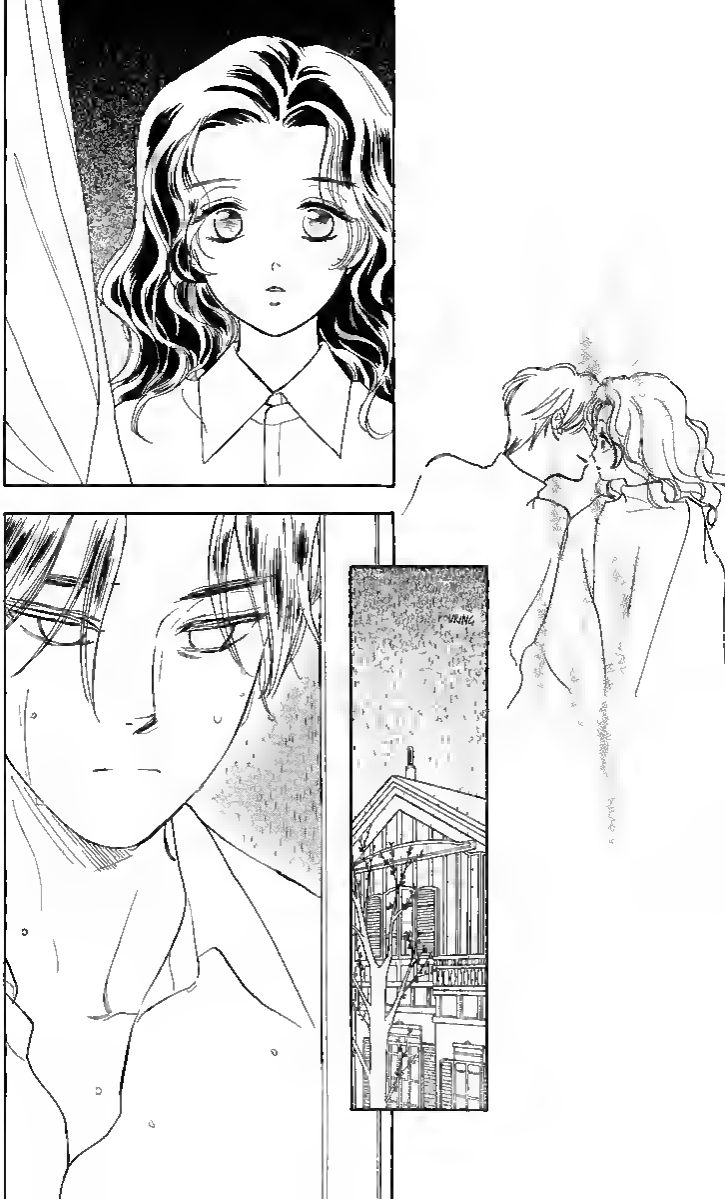

MY FATHER WHO SHUT ME IN LIKE I WAS TRAPPED IN A BOX ...
SO QUIET
MY QUIET HOME ...
ON A COLD SPRING MORNING
MY MOTHER WHISPERED 'IM SORRY' INTO MY EARS WHILE CARRESSING MY HAIR AND LEFT ME ..

EACH DAY PASSED BY IN SUCH A DAZE ...
AND ONE DAY ...
HE SUDDENLY APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME ...

HE CONTINUED TO PROBE THESE PEACEFUL WATERS ...
HE STIRRED UP MY LIFE ...
HE WAS SUCH A NOISY PERSON
EVERYTHING FELT SO ROUGH AND ABRUPT BUT I REALISED SOON AFTER, THAT HE WAS NOTHING BUT KIND AND GENTLE TO ME ...
HE HAD SUCH WARM HANDS
SUCH AN AMAZING PERSON ...

WE'RE GOING TO BORROW ONE OF THOSE BRANCHES
YUP, WHAT DO YOU THINK ?
A LETTER ?
WE'LL DECIDE ON A CERTAIN LOCATION AND MARK IT, THEN WE CAN EXCHANGE LETTERS THERE !
YOU KNOW THAT TREE WHERE PEOPLE TIE THEIR FORTUNE SLIPS IN THE SHRINE ?
YOU AND I, OF COURSE !
WHO ELSE DO YOU THINK THERE IS ?
LETS EXCHANGE LETTER !
EXCHANGE ?
BETWEEN WHOM ?
IM AMAZED THAT YOU WOULD THINK OF SUCH A CUTE IDEA ...
NO! I PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO THIS IDEA
SINCE WE ONLY GET TO SEE EACH OTHER IN THE NIGHT LIKE THIS 2 OR 3 TIMES A MONTH
BESIDES, MY DEAR PRINCESS NEVER SETS FOOT OUTSIDE THE HOUSE IN THE DAY TIME BECAUSE YOU WANT TO OBEY YOUR FATHER'S ORDERS RIGHT ?

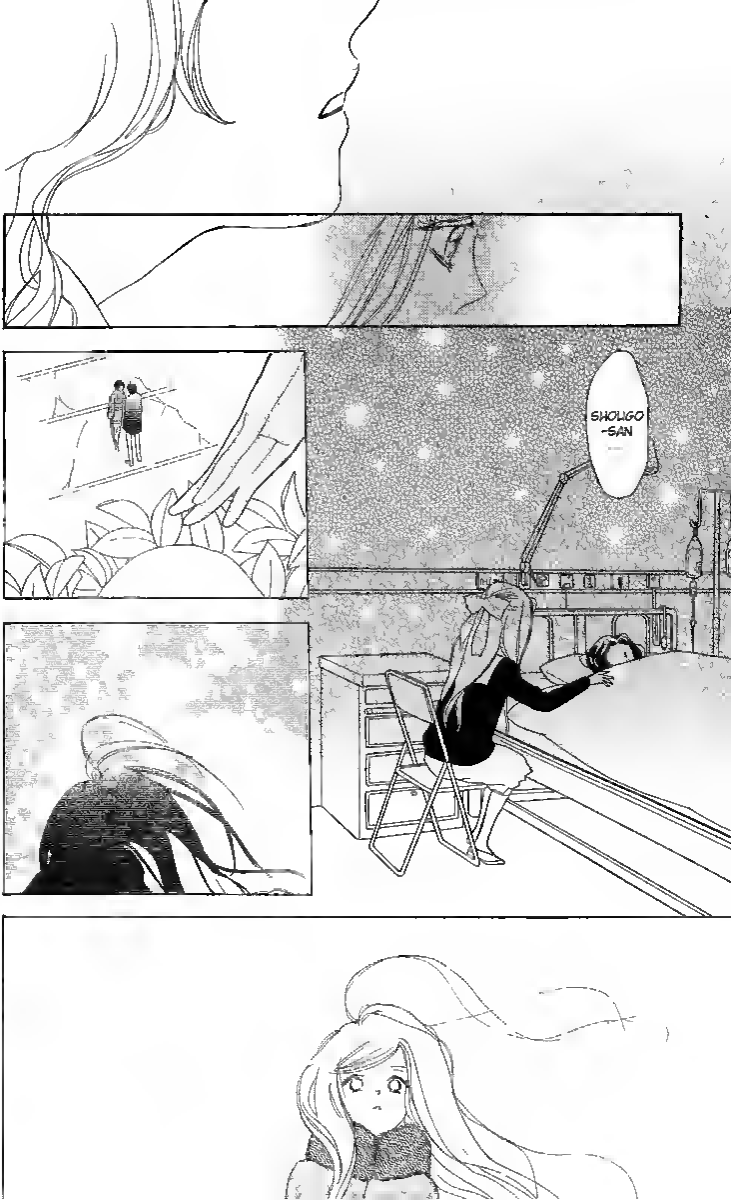
WHAT ABOUT YOU ? I SELDOM SEE YOU THROUGH MY WINDOW NOWADAYS
OF COURSE ! IF I KEEP DOING THAT I'LL STAND OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB
THERE'S GOING TO BE HUGE CROWDS OF PEOPLE AT THE SHRINE RIGHT ?
EVEN THE SERVANTS WHO ACCOMPANY YOU WONT REALISE IT
SO I SHOULD PRETEND TO TIE UP A FORTUNE SLIP WHILE SENDING YOU A LETTER ?
IT SOUNDS FUN ...



THAT YOU ARE TO MARRY THE HEAD OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY ...
IS IT TRUE ..?
IS IT TRUE ..?

YES ...
BAM
YOU KNEW ALL ALONG ...
ABOUT MY
WHY ...?

NO
..
ABOUT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU !!
YOU CANT DO THAT ..!


SHOUGO
-SAN

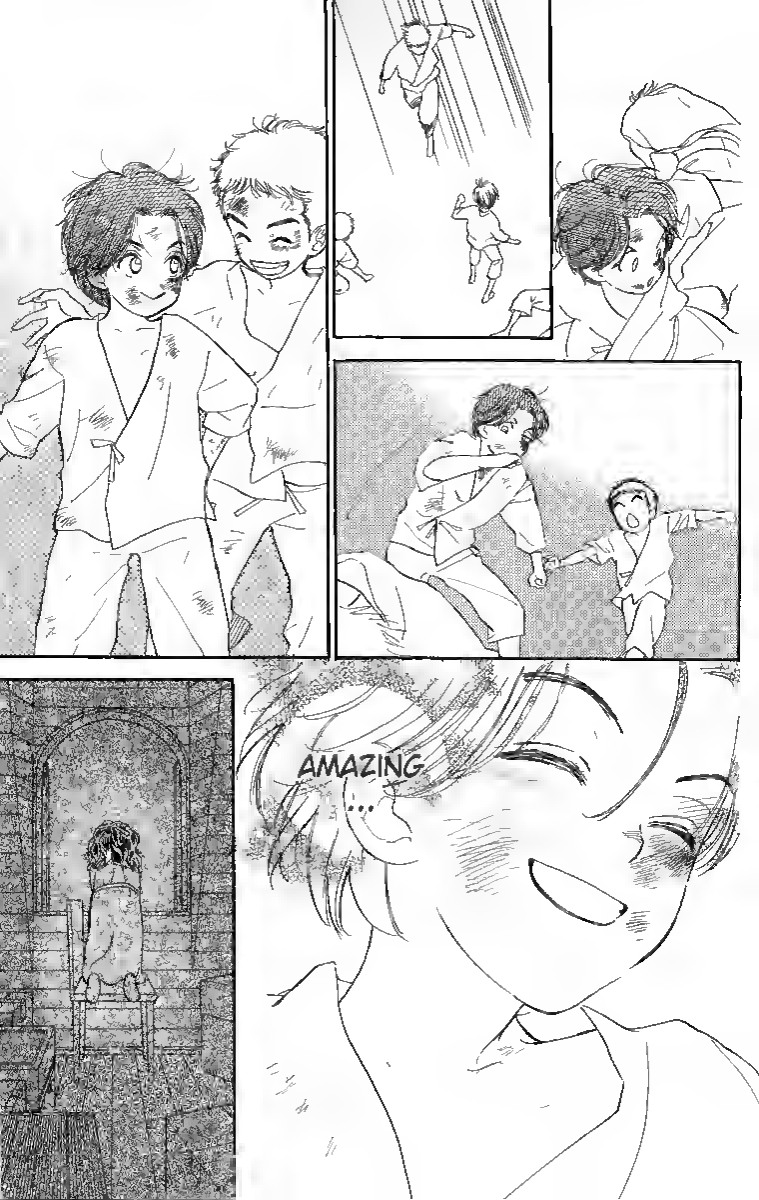
Chapter 42

THAT'S RIGHT, I KNEW IT ALL ALONG
ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME
...
WHY ...?

IT'S NOT HARD TO READ ONE'S FEELINGS
MORE SO IF THE PERSON HAS NO INTENTION ON HIDING IT

SHOUKO -SAMA WHERE ARE YOU GOING !?
BIG BROTHER JUST GAVE ME A TELESCOPE SO I'LL BE IN THE ATTIC !
THE WINDOW THERE IS REALLY HIGH SO MAKE SURE YOU BE CAREFUL !
POOR SHOUKO -SAMA, SHE ISN'T ALLOWED TO GO OUT AT ALL
I THINK THE MASTER HAS BECOME EXCEEDINGLY STRICT ON SHOUKO-SAMA EVER SINCE THE MADAM LEFT THIS HOUSE, SHE ISNT EVEN ALLOWED TO GO TO SCHOOL NOW
I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS SHE HAS BEEN CLOSED UP IN THIS HOUSE FOR ?
MAYBE IT IS BECAUSE SHOUKO-SAMA RESEMBLES THE MADAM SO MUCH

SHOU-CHAN !!!
TH-
THAT STARTLED ME
WHAT ?
ALL RIGHT ! SHOU-CHAN !!
WHAM
AH
THAT KID IS AMAZING
EVEN THOUGH HE IS THE SMALLEST ONE OF THE BUNCH


AMAZING
...

FATHER ...
I WOULD LIKE TO GO OUTSIDE, TO GO TO SCHOOL SOON ...
HE GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO SPEAK UP ...
AND THAT BOY WITH A NAME SIMILAR TO MINE WAS THE TRIGGER TO EVERYTHING ...
I CAN'T ?
YOU KNOW WHAT
I GUESS EVEN I CANT KEEP YOU LOCKED UP HERE FOREVER ...
EVEN I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL ..

EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT, I WISHED I COULD HAVE EXPERIENCED LIFE THE WAY HE DID TOO ...
AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL WITH STRICT RULES AND GUIDELINES
ALWAYS HAVING TO BE PICKED UP AND DROPPED OFF AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE
BUT I GUESS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO JUST BE AWAY FROM THE MANSION
HOW I WISH TO SEE MORE ...
OF THIS WORLD BEYOND MY WINDOW ...

SPLASH

FLASH
SHOU-
SHOUKO ...?
SLAM
FATHER

FATHER !!!
STOP ..
PLEASE STOP IT !!
FATHER !?
WE'RE GOING HOME ..

THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS FOR SOMEONE ENGAGED TO THE OSHIRO FAMILY!
FOLLOW ME!
UH,
No
WE'RE GOING HOME!
NOOO!
GRAB
DASH

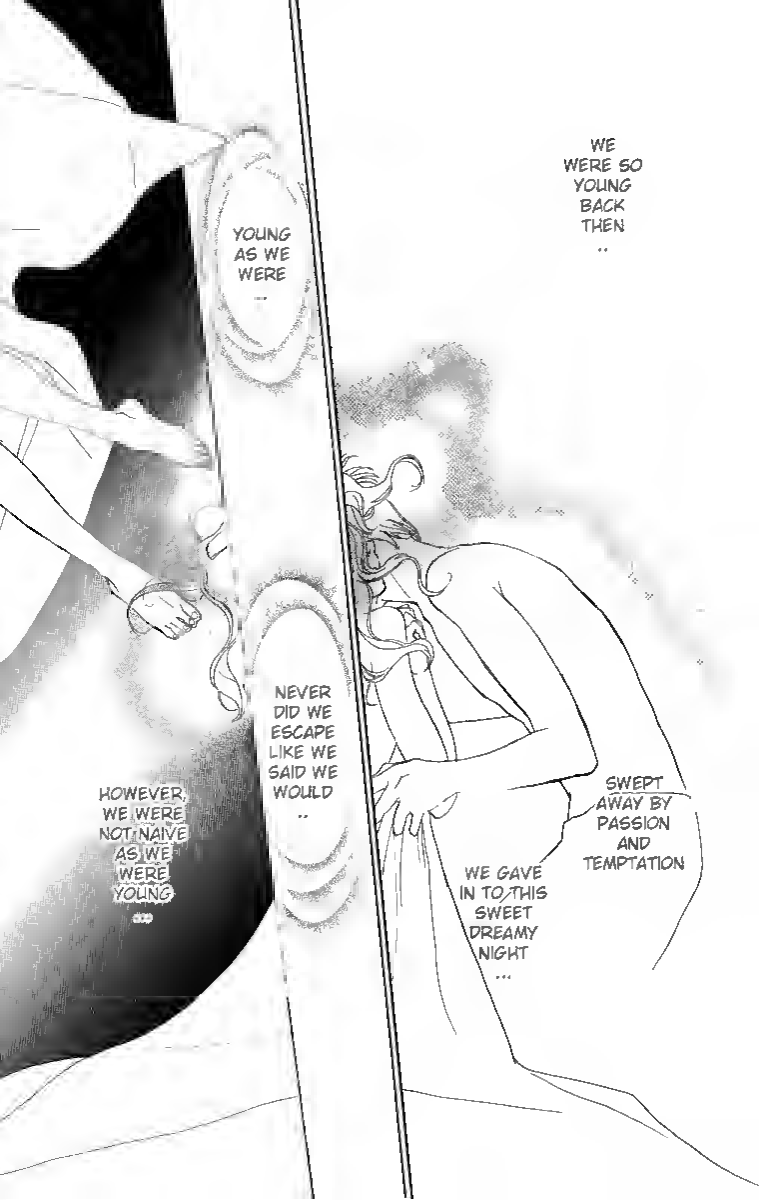
STOP RIGHT THERE, SHOUKO !
SCREEEECH
SHOUKO !!
PHEW
THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND US SO EASILY ONCE WE'RE IN THE MOUNTAINS
SLIDE
KYA-
IM FINE, SORRY
IT WAS JUST A LIE
BEAR WITH IT FOR AWHILE
LETS RUN AWAY
SINCE THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT THIS WAY, IT MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO BE ABLE TO EVEN TALK TO EACH OTHER

IT'S RAINING HEAVILY ANYWAY
EVEN IF THEY GATHER PEOPLE TO FORM A SEARCH PARTY NOW THEY MAY NOT FIND US UNTIL MORNING ...
YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD
THIS IS ONE OF THE HIDING PLACES I TOOK OVER FROM MY FATHER
I'LL START A FIRE FIRST
THERE IS A BLANKET THROUGH THAT DOOR SO GO ON AND TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES

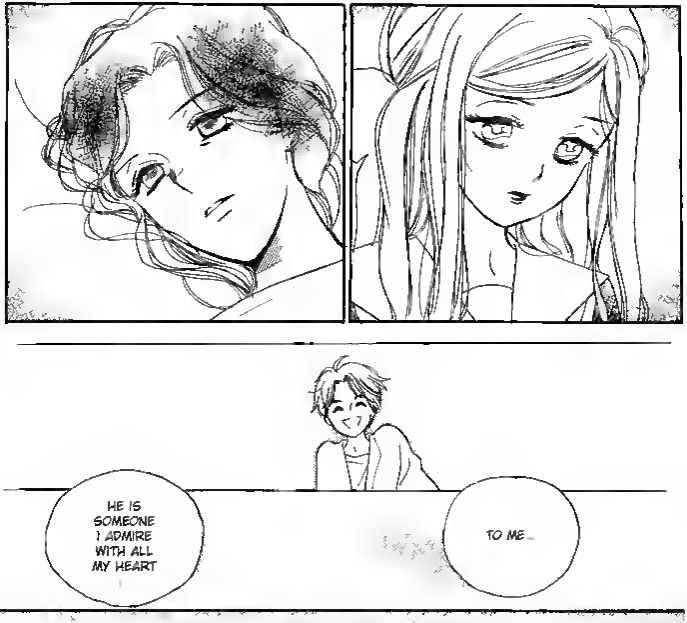
WHAT DO YOU MEAN
SO ?
IM NOT ONE TO PASS UP ON A CHANCE LIKE THIS
WHY ARE YOU SITTING NEXT TO ME ...
FLICKER
FLICKER
MAY I KNOW,
WHY YOU CAME RUNNING AFTER ME ?
WHY ...?
IT'S NOT HARD TO READ ONE'S FEELINGS ...
IM SURE YOU ALREADY DO ...?
JUST AS YOU HAD NO INTENTION OF HIDING YOUR FEELINGS FROM ME ...

NEITHER DO I WANT TO HIDE MY FEELINGS FOR YOU
YOU'RE RIGHT
I ALREADY KNEW THAT YOU LIKED ME ALL THIS WHILE
BUT WHEN I HEARD YOU SAY 'YES' SO EASILY WHEN I ASKED YOU ABOUT YOUR ENGAGEMENT
TSK
NO FAIR
THAT'S WHY YOU GOT SO ANGRY RIGHT ?
I ALREADY KNEW THAT SUCH A DAY WOULD COME ...!
SOMETIMES IT'S IRRITATING HOW PERCEPTIVE YOU ARE OF THINGS
SO WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT THIS CHANGE OF HEART, FOR YOU TO GO AGAINST YOUR FATHER ?

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THAT JUST ONCE
JUST ONCE
IM SORRY
YOU LIAR ...
LETS RUN AWAY TOGETHER, FAR FAR AWAY WHERE THEY WONT FIND US
DONT WORRY ABOUT IT
SOUNDS GOOD


WE WERE SO YOUNG BACK THEN ..
YOUNG AS WE WERE ...
SWEPT AWAY BY PASSION AND TEMPTATION
WE GAVE IN TO THIS SWEET DREAMY NIGHT ...
NEVER DID WE ESCAPE LIKE WE SAID WE WOULD ..
HOWEVER, WE WERE NOT NAIVE AS WE WERE YOUNG ...

WE KNEW WHERE THIS WOULD END UP ...
MOTHER ?
WHO IS SHOU -NIISAMA TO YOU
WHAT DOES HE MEAN TO YOU, MOTHER ?


HE IS SOMEONE I ADMIRE WITH ALL MY HEART
TO ME...
I SEE...

SAIZOU
MOTHER HAS REGAINED HER CONSCIOUS -NESS
I'LL GO CALL THE DOCTORS, I WANT TO TALK WITH THEM TOO
PLEASE LOOK AFTER MY MOTHER FOR ME WILL YOU ?
SHINOBU -SAMA ?
IM ALRIGHT
I CANT POSSIBLY DISTURB HER WHILE SHE IS RESTING, I'LL STAY HERE AND-
VERY WELL, THEN. I'LL SEND SHOU -NIISAMA OVER
THANKS

OR WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN
BUT ..
MY EVERY MOVE WAS MONITORED EVEN MORE AGGRESIVELY THAN BEFORE
WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO MEET AGAIN SINCE FATHER PUSHED FORWARD THE DATE OF MY BRIDAL PROCESSION ...
AND WE WERE SEPARATED FROM EACH OTHER
AND OUR LITTLE ESCAPADE CAME TO AN END JUST LIKE THAT ...
AFTER BOTH OUR FAMILIES FOUND OUT ABOUT US, THEY ISSUED A GAG ORDER TO MAKE SURE NEWS OF THIS SCANDAL NEVER REACHED THE OSHIRO FAMILY ...
SLAM
SHOUKO -SAMA !?
DASH
!
! FORGOT SOMETHING !

SO SHALL WE RUN AWAY TOGETHER ?

YOU POOR THING
IT MUST BE PAINFUL FOR YOU TO LET ME GO

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE UP ?
NO,
THAT WONT DO
WHATEVER YOU WISH OF ME
I GUESS THE ONLY THING LEFT WOULD BE TO GIVE UP OUR FUTURE TOGETHER
WELL THEN
BUT IM GOING TO PROVE TO YOU,
THAT I WILL SURELY BE THE LAST ONE SMILING
I CHOSE TO LET GO
I DIDNT WANT TO STAIN THAT BEAUTIFUL BRIGHT LIGHT ...

AND SOON AFTER STEPPING THROUGH THE DOORS OF THE OSHIRO FAMILY, I REALISED ...
THAT FATHER HAD FOUND A NEW CAGE FOR ME ...
"I GUESS EVEN I CANT KEEP YOU LOCKED UP HERE FOREVER ..."
"EVEN I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL!"
A STRONG AND STURDY,
BRAND NEW CAGE ...

I
THE SMELL OF
BLOOD
..

PLEASE HOLD YOURSELF TOGETHER, SHOUKO -SAMA !
SHOUKO -SAMA !!
COUGH
UGH
UHH ...
I'LL GET A DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY !!
SHOUKO -SAMA !!!
COUGH
COUGH
SAI ...

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH

SHOCK
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
NGH
...
SJJI-
...

AAARGH
AHH
AAARGH
AH

AND
DARKNESS
WAS BORN
FROM THAT
CAGE
...